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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EVIDENCE

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 1

Monday, October 6, 1997

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Standing Order 106 – Election of a Chair and Vice-Chairs

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No. 1)

Monday, October 6, 1997

[Text]

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:30 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, for the purpose of electing a Chair pursuant to Standing Order 106(1).

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Lorne Nystrom, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Paul Steckle for Mac Harb, and Derrek Konrad for Jason Kenney.

Associate Members present: Roy H. Bailey and Bev Desjarlais.

The Clerk of the Committee presided over the election of a Chair.

On motion of Derrek Konrad, it was agreed, – That John Williams do take the Chair of this Committee as Chairman.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed, – That Andrew Telegdi be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

On motion of Rey Pagtakhan, it was agreed, – That Ivan Grose be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

At 3:35 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA
36^e LÉGISLATURE, 1^{re} SESSION

TÉMOIGNAGES

Comité permanent
des

COMPTES PUBLICS

Président : John Williams, Ref.

Séance n° 1

Le lundi 6 octobre 1997

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Article 106 du Règlement—Élection du président et de vice-présidents



PROCÈS-VERBAL

(Séance n° 1)

Le lundi 6 octobre 1997

[Traduction]

Le Comité permanent des comptes publics se réunit aujourd'hui à 15 h 30, dans la pièce 209 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, pour élire un président conformément au paragraphe 106(1) du Règlement.

Membres du Comité présents: Mark Assad, André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Lorne Nystrom, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi et John Williams.

Membres suppléants présents: Paul Steckle pour Mac Harb, et Derrek Konrad pour Jason Kenney.

Membres associés présents: Roy H. Bailey et Bev Desjarlais.

Le greffier du Comité préside l'élection du président.

Sur motion de Derrek Konrad, il est convenu, – Que John Williams assume la présidence du Comité.

John Williams prend place au fauteuil.

Sur motion de Lynn Myers, il est convenu, – Que Andrew Telegdi soit élu à la vice-présidence du Comité.

Sur motion de Rey Pagtakhan, il est convenu, – Que Ivan Grose soit élu à la vice-présidence du Comité.

À 15 h 35, le Comité s'ajourne jusqu'à nouvelle convocation du président.

Le greffier du Comité

Bernard G. Fournier

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EVIDENCE

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 2

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e), consideration of routine motions



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No. 2)

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

[Text]

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer, Research Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of routine motions for the conduct of its business.

René Laurin, seconded by Rey Pagtakhan, moved, - That the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure be composed as follows: the Chair, the two Vice-Chairs, an additional Liberal member and a member from each of the other three (3) parties.

After debate, the question being put on the motion, it was, by a show of hands, agreed to:
Yeas: 10; Nays: 1.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed, - That the Committee retain the services of one or more research officers from the Library of Parliament, as needed, to assist the Committee in its work, at the discretion of the Chair.

On motion of Philip Mayfield, it was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence when a quorum is not present provided that at least five (5) members are present including three (3) government members and two (2) members of the opposition.

Andrew Telegdi moved, - That the witnesses be given five (5) minutes to summarize their opening statements which will be appended to that day's evidence and, that during the questioning of the witnesses, there be allocated eight (8) minutes for the first questioner of each party and that thereafter four (4) minutes be allocated to each subsequent questioner, at the discretion of the Chair.

René Laurin moved, - That the motion be amended by changing the numbers "eight (8)" and "four (4)" to "ten (10)" and "five (5)".

After debate, the question being put on the motion of René Laurin, it was, by a show of hands, negatived : Yeas: 2; Nays: 10.

And the question being put on the motion of Andrew Telegdi, it was, by a show of hands,

agreed to : Yeas: 9; Nays: 3.

At 4:27 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

TÉMOIGNAGES

Comité permanent
des

COMPTES PUBLICS

Président : John Williams, Réf.

Séance n° 2

Le mercredi 8 octobre 1997

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Conformément à l'alinéa 108(3)e) du Règlement, examen des motions courantes

**PROCÈS-VERBAL**

(Séance n° 2)

LE MERCREDI 8 OCTOBRE 1997

[Traduction]

Le Comité permanent des comptes publics se réunit aujourd'hui à 15 h 35, dans la pièce 209 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, sous la présidence de John Williams (*président*).

Membres du Comité présents: Mark Assad, André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi et John Williams.

Aussi présent: Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement: Brian O'Neal, attaché de recherche.

Conformément à l'alinéa 108(3)e) du Règlement, le Comité examine des motions courantes pour la conduite de ses travaux.

René Laurin, appuyé par Rey Pagtakhan, propose, - Que le Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure se compose du président, des deux vice-présidents, d'un membre additionnel du Parti libéral et d'un membre de chacun des trois (3) autres partis.

Après débat, la motion, mise aux voix, est adoptée par un vote à main levée: Pour: 10; Contre: 1.

Sur motion de Lynn Myers, il est convenu, - Que le Comité retienne les services d'un ou de plusieurs attachés de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement, au besoin, pour l'aider dans ses travaux, à la discrétion du président.

Sur motion de Philip Mayfield, il est convenu, - Que le président soit autorisé à tenir des audiences pour recevoir des témoignages en l'absence de quorum, pourvu qu'au moins cinq (5) membres du Comité soient présents, dont trois (3) députés du parti ministériel et deux (2) députés de l'Opposition.

Andrew Telegdi propose, - Que cinq (5) minutes soient allouées aux témoins pour résumer leur exposé qui sera annexé aux témoignages de ce jour et que pendant l'interrogation des témoins, huit (8) minutes soient accordées au premier intervenant de chaque parti et, par la suite, quatre (4) minutes à ceux qui suivront, à la discrétion du président.

René Laurin propose, - Qu'on modifie la motion en remplaçant les chiffres 'huit (8)' et 'quatre (4)' par les chiffres 'dix (10)' et 'cinq (5)'.

Après débat, l'amendement de René Laurin, mis aux voix, est rejeté par un vote à main levée: Pour: 2; Contre: 10.

La motion d'Andrew Telegdi est adoptée par un vote à main levée: Pour: 9; Contre: 3.

À 16 h 27, le Comité s'ajourne jusqu'à nouvelle convocation du président.

Le greffier du Comité

Bernard G. Fournier

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EVIDENCE

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 3

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Report of the Steering Committee

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESS:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Raymond Dubois, Deputy Auditor General;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No. 3)

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:38 o'clock p.m. this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, André Bachand, Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Rick Casson for Jason Kenney, Garry Breitkreuz for Philip Mayfield, Eleni Bakopanos for Sue Barnes.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General; Raymond Dubois, Deputy Auditor General; and Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters related to the future business of the Committee.

The Chair presented the First Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Thursday, October 9, 1997 and agreed to recommend the following:

That the time schedule for meetings during the weeks of October 20 and October 27, 1997 be as follows: Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. for public meetings with witnesses; and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. for *in camera* preparatory briefings with the research staff of the Committee and representatives of the Office of the Auditor General. The Steering Committee will re-examine the time schedule of meetings at the end of the week of October 27, 1997 in an attempt to prevent scheduling conflicts with other committees.

That during the questioning of the witnesses, the Chair recognize a government member as the third questioner on the first round; and that the Chair endeavour to ensure that all members of the Committee be given the opportunity to ask questions during a meeting.

That, as established by the Board of Internal Economy and if requested, reasonable travelling, accommodation and living expenses be reimbursed to witnesses who are invited to appear before the Committee up to a maximum of two (2) representatives for any one

organization.

That the Committee meet on Tuesday, October 21 at 3:30 p.m. to consider the Report of the Steering Committee and routine motions followed at 4:30 p.m. with a statement and questions to the Auditor General regarding his April and October 1997 Report referred to the Committee on October 7, 1997, and that the meeting be extended, if required.

That the Committee hold meetings on the following chapters of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General before the Christmas recess:

- 2 -

Chapter 12: Information Technology : Preparedness for Year 2000 (briefing on October 22 and meeting on October 28);

Chapter 21: Household Goods Removal Services of the Federal Government (briefing on October 29);

Chapter 13: Health Canada – First Nations Health;

Chapter 19: Transport Canada: Commercialization of Air Navigation System; and

Chapter 17: Human Resources Development Canada – A Critical Transition toward Results-Based Management.

6. That the Research Officers of the Committee prepare Draft Reports for the consideration of the Steering Committee within three weeks of the meeting(s) with witnesses on a particular chapter of the Auditor General Report.

René Laurin, seconded by Mac Harb, moved, - That Recommendation no. 1 be amended by deleting the words: "for in-camera preparatory briefings" and substituting the following therefore: "for preparatory briefings generally held in-camera".

After debate, the question being put on the motion, it was agreed to.

After further debate, Recommendations nos 2 to 6 inclusive were agreed to.

The Report, as amended, was concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the procedure relating to dilatory motions as outlined in the document dated October 20, 1997 prepared by the Clerk of the Committee be followed in this Committee.

At 4:13 o'clock p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 4:30 o'clock p.m., the sitting resumed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, October 7, 1997.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:46 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned until tomorrow at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA
36^e LÉGISLATURE, 1^{re} SESSION

TÉMOIGNAGES

Comité permanent
des

COMPTES PUBLICS

Président : John Williams, Ref.

Séance n^o 3

Le mardi 21 octobre 1997

ORDRES DU JOUR:

Rapport du Comité directeur

Conformément à l'article 108(3)e) du Règlement, étude du rapport d'avril et octobre 1997 du vérificateur général du Canada

TÉMOIN:

Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, vérificateur général du Canada;

Raymond Dubois, sous-vérificateur général;

Shahid Minto, vérificateur général adjoint.



PROCÈS-VERBAL

(Séance n° 3)

Le mardi 21 octobre 1997

Le Comité permanent des comptes publics se réunit aujourd'hui à 15 h 38, dans la pièce 308 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, sous la présidence de John Williams (*président*).

Membres du Comité présents : Mark Assad, André Bachand, Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi et John Williams.

Membres suppléants présents : Rick Casson pour Jason Kenney, Garry Breitkreuz pour Philip Mayfield, Eleni Bakopanos pour Sue Barnes.

Aussi présent : *Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement* : Brian O'Neal, attaché de recherche.

Témoins : *Du Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada* : L. Denis Desautels, vérificateur général; Raymond Dubois, sous-vérificateur général; et Shahid Minto, vérificateur général adjoint.

Conformément à l'alinéa 108 (3)e) du Règlement, le Comité examine des questions liées aux futurs travaux du Comité.

Le président présente le Premier rapport du Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure qui se lit comme suit :

Le Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure du Comité permanent des comptes publics s'est réuni le jeudi 9 octobre 1997 et a convenu de faire les recommandations suivantes:

Que, pour les semaines du 20 et 27 octobre 1997, les séances du Comité aient lieu selon l'horaire suivant : les mardis à 15 h 30 pour les audiences publiques avec les témoins; et les mercredis à 17 h 30 pour des séances d'information à huis clos avec les attachés de recherche du Comité et des représentants du Bureau du vérificateur général. Le Comité directeur réexaminera l'horaire des séances à la fin de la semaine du 27 octobre 1997 et tentera d'éviter les conflits d'horaire avec les autres comités.

Que, pendant l'interrogation des témoins, au premier tour, le président donne la parole à un député du parti ministériel en troisième place; et qu'il veille à ce que tous les membres du Comité aient la chance de poser des questions au cours des séances.

Que, conformément aux règles établies par le Bureau de régie interne, les témoins qui ont été invités à comparaître devant le Comité et qui en font la demande soient remboursés de leurs frais de déplacement, d'hébergement et de séjour jugés raisonnables, à raison d'au plus deux (2) représentants par organisme.

Que le Comité se réunisse le mardi 21 octobre à 15 h 30 pour étudier le rapport du Comité directeur et les motions courantes, suivis, à 16 h 30, d'un exposé et de questions adressées au vérificateur général au sujet de son rapport d'avril et octobre 1997, renvoyé au Comité le 7 octobre 1997, et que la séance se prolonge au besoin.

Que le Comité tienne des séances, avant le congé de Noël, sur les chapitres qui suivent du rapport d'avril et octobre 1997 du vérificateur général:

Chapitre 12: Les technologies de l'information – La préparation à l'an 2000 (information le 22 octobre et séance le 28 octobre);

Chapitre 21: Les services de déménagement d'articles de ménage au sein de l'administration fédérale (information le 29 octobre);

Chapitre 13: Santé Canada – La santé des Premières nations;

Chapitre 19: Transports Canada - La commercialisation des systèmes de navigation aérienne;

Chapitre 17: Développement des ressources humaines Canada – Virage décisif vers une gestion axée sur les résultats.

6. Que les attachés de recherche du Comité rédigent des ébauches de rapport et les soumettent au comité directeur dans les trois semaines suivant les séances avec les témoins sur un chapitre particulier du rapport du vérificateur général.

René Laurin, appuyé par Mac Harb, propose, - Que la recommandation n° 1 soit modifiée par suppression des mots: "pour des séances d'information à huis clos" et leur remplacement par : "pour des séances d'information habituellement tenues à huis clos."

Après débat, la motion, mise aux voix, est adoptée.

Après plus ample débat, les recommandations 2 à 6 inclusivement sont adoptées.

Le rapport est adopté dans sa forme modifiée.

Il est convenu, - Que le Comité suive la procédure relative aux motions dilatoires, exposée dans le document du 20 octobre 1997 rédigé par le greffier du Comité.

À 16 h 13, la séance est suspendue.

À 16 h 30, la séance reprend.

Conformément à l'alinéa 108(3)e), le Comité procède à l'examen du rapport d'avril et octobre du vérificateur général du Canada, renvoyé au Comité le mardi 7 octobre 1997.

L. Denis Desautels fait une déclaration et, avec les autres témoins, répond aux questions.

À 17 h 46, le Comité s'ajourne jusqu'à demain, à 17 h 30.

Le greffier du Comité
Bernard G. Fournier

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EVIDENCE

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 4

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

IN CAMERA



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
(Meeting No. 4)

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in-camera at 5:35 o'clock p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, André Bachand, Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Witnesses: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Daniel Brassard, Research Officers. From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Doug Timmins, Assistant Auditor General; and Nancy Cheng, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to a briefing on Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000).

The witnesses made opening statements and answered questions.

At 7:14 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA
36^e LÉGISLATURE, 1^{re} SESSION

TÉMOIGNAGES

Comité permanent
des

COMPTES PUBLICS

Président : John Williams, Ref.

Séance n^o 4

Le mercredi 22 octobre 1997

À HUIS CLOS



PROCÈS-VERBAL

(Séance n° 4)

Le mercredi 22 octobre 1997

Le Comité permanent des comptes publics se réunit aujourd'hui à huis clos, à 17 h 35, dans la pièce 209 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, sous la présidence de John Williams (*président*).

Membres du Comité présents : Mark Assad, André Bachand, Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi et John Williams.

Témoins : *Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement* : Brian O'Neal et Daniel Brassard, attachés de recherche. *Du Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada* : Doug Timmins, vérificateur général adjoint; et Nancy Cheng, directeur principal, Opérations de vérification.

Conformément à l'alinéa 108(3)e) du Règlement, le Comité tient une séance d'information sur le chapitre 12 du rapport d'avril et octobre 1997 du vérificateur général du Canada (Les technologies de l'information – La préparation à l'an 2000).

Les témoins font des allocutions d'ouverture et répondent aux questions.

À 19 h 14, le Comité s'ajourne jusqu'à nouvelle convocation du président.

Le greffier du Comité

Bernard G. Fournier

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EVIDENCE

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 5

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000)

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Nancy Cheng, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Secretariat of the Treasury Board:

René Guindon, Visiting Assistant Deputy Minister, Year 2000 Project Office;

Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General;

Paul Rummell, Chief Information Officer.

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

(Meeting No. 5)

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Denis Coderre for Elinor Caplan; Bill Graham for Mark Assad; Derek Lee for Ivan Grose.

Other Member present: Ovid Jackson.

In attendance: *From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament:* Brian O'Neal and Marion G. Wrobel, Research Officers.

Witnesses: **From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada:** L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Doug Timmins, Assistant Auditor General; Nancy Cheng, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. **From the Secretariat of the Treasury Board:** René Guindon, Visiting Assistant Deputy Minister, Year 2000 Project Office; Paul Rummell, Chief Information Officer; Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000) (See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3).

L. Denis Desautels and René Guindon made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:24 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA
36^e LÉGISLATURE, 1^{re} SESSION

TÉMOIGNAGES

Comité permanent
des

COMPTES PUBLICS

Président : John Williams, Ref.

Séance n^o 5

Le mardi 28 octobre 1997

ORDRES DU JOUR:

Étude du chapitre 12 du rapport d'avril et d'octobre 1997 du vérificateur général du Canada (Les technologies de l'information - La préparation à l'an 2000)

TÉMOINS:

Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada:

Nancy Cheng, directrice principale, Opérations de vérification;

L. Denis Desautels, vérificateur général du Canada.

Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor :

René Guindon, sous-ministre adjoint invité, Bureau du projet de l'an 2000;

Colin Potts, sous-contrôleur général;

Paul Rummell, dirigeant principal de l'informatique.

**PROCÈS-VERBAL**

(Séance n° 5)

Le mardi 28 octobre 1997

Le Comité permanent des comptes publics se réunit aujourd'hui à 15 h 35, dans la pièce 209 de l'édifice de l'Ouest, sous la présidence de John Williams (*président*).

Membres du Comité présents : André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi et John Williams.

Membres suppléants présents : Denis Coderre pour Elinor Caplan; Bill Graham pour Mark Assad; Derek Lee pour Ivan Grose.

Autre député présent : Ovid Jackson.

Aussi présents : Du Service de recherche de la Bibliothèque du Parlement : Brian O'Neal et Marion G. Wrobel, attachés de recherche.

Témoins : Du Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada : L. Denis Desautels, vérificateur général du Canada; Doug Timmins, vérificateur général adjoint; Nancy Cheng, directeur principal, Opérations de vérification. Du Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor : René Guindon, sous-ministre adjoint invité, Bureau du projet de l'an 2000; Paul Rummell, dirigeant principal de l'information; Colin Potts, sous-contrôleur général.

Conformément à l'alinéa 108(3)e) du Règlement, le Comité reprend l'étude du chapitre 12 du rapport d'avril et octobre 1997 du vérificateur général du Canada (Les technologies de l'information – La préparation à l'an 2000) (*Voir le Procès-verbal du mardi 21 octobre 1997, séance n° 3*).

L. Denis Desautels et René Guindon font des allocutions d'ouverture et, avec les autres témoins, répondent aux questions.

À 17 h 24, le Comité s'ajourne jusqu'à nouvelle convocation du président.

Le greffier du Comité,

Bernard G. Fournier

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

EVIDENCE

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 6

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Report of the Steering Committee

Consideration of chapter 17 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Human Resources Development Canada:

Ian Green, Associate Deputy Minister;

Marcel Nouvet, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Administrative Services.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Louis Lalonde, Principal, Audit Operations;

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No.6)

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:31 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and John Williams.

Acting Members present: John Harvard for Andrew Telegdi; Judy Wasylcia-Leis for Lorne Nystrom.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General; David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General; Louis Lalonde, Principal, Audit Operations. *From Human Resources Development Canada:* Ian Green, Associate Deputy Minister; Marcel Nouvet, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Administrative Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters relating to the future business of the Committee.

The Chair presented the Second Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Tuesday, October 28, 1997 and agreed to recommend the following schedule of meetings and briefings in relation to the April and October 1997 and the December 1997 Reports of the Auditor General:

Tuesday, November 4 at 3:30 p.m.: meeting on Chapter 17 (Human Resources Development Canada— A Critical Transition toward Results-Based Management);

Monday, November 17 at 3:30 p.m.: *in camera* briefing for meeting of November 18;

Tuesday, November 18 at 3:30 p.m.: meeting on Chapter 19 (Transport Canada: Commercialization of Air Navigation System);

Wednesday, November 19 at 5:30 p.m.: *in camera* briefing for meeting of November 26;

Tuesday, November 25 at 3:30 p.m.: consideration of Draft Report to the House;

Wednesday, November 26 at 3:30 p.m.: meeting on Chapter 13 (Health Canada –First

Nations Health);

Tuesday, December 2 at 11:00 a.m.: *in camera* briefing on the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General;

Wednesday, December 3 at 3:30 p.m. : meeting on the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General *and* consideration Draft Report to the House; and

Tuesday, December 9 and Wednesday, December 10 at 3:30 p.m.: *open*.

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On motion of Sue Barnes, the Second Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure was concurred in.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 17 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada. (Human Resources Development Canada – A Critical Transition toward Results-Based Management). (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*).

L. Denis Desautels and Ian Green made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:26 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 7

Monday, November 17, 1997

IN CAMERA

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No.7)

Monday, November 17, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:36 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Gurmant Grewal, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Derek Lee for Sue Barnes, John Harvard for Elinor Caplan, Carmen Provenzano for Ivan Grose, Claude Drouin for Andrew Telegdi, Paul Mercier for Odina Desrochers.

Other Member present: Lee Morrison.

Witnesses: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer. *From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada:* Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General; Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to a briefing for the meeting of November 18, 1997 in relation to Chapter 19 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Transport Canada - - The Commercialization of the Air Navigation System) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*).

Brian O'Neal briefed the Committee and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:17 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 8

Tuesday, November 18, 1997

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 19 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Transport Canada -- The Commercialization of the Air Navigation System)

WITNESSES:

Department of Transport:

Margaret Bloodworth, Deputy Minister;
Ron Jackson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Safety and Security;
Ronald Sully, Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs and Divestiture.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General;
Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;
Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.

Treasury Board Secretariat:

Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No. 8)

Tuesday, November 18, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: André Bachand, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers and John Williams.

Other Member present: Yvan Loubier.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General; Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From Transport Canada:* Margaret Bloodworth, Deputy Minister; Ron Jackson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Safety and Security; Ronald Sully, Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs and Divestiture. *From the Secretariat of the Treasury Board:* Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 19 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Transport Canada - - The Commercialization of the Air Navigation System) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*).

L. Denis Desautels, Margaret Bloodworth and Colin Potts made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:26 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 9

Wednesday, November 19, 1997

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No.9)

Wednesday, November 19, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 5:45 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Derrek Konrad for Jason Kenney.

Witnesses: *From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament:* Brian O'Neal, Research Officer. *From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada:* Ronnie Campbell, Director, Audit Operations Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 13 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Health Canada - - First Nations Health). (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*)

Brian O'Neal made an opening statement, and with the other witness, answered questions.

At 6:51 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 10

Tuesday, November 25, 1997

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 10

Tuesday, November 25, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:38 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*).

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 12.

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

On motion of Andrew Telegdi, it was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

On motion of Sue Barnes, it was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters relating to reports of the Committee presented to the House during the 35th Parliament.

On motion of Andrew Telegdi, it was agreed, - That the Chair of the Committee present a report to the House requesting that the Government provide to the Committee comprehensive responses, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 109, to the following Reports of the Committee presented to the House of Commons during the last few months of the Thirty-fifth Parliament :

the Fourth Report (*Revenue Canada – Combatting Income Tax Avoidance*), presented on February 10, 1997;

the Fifth Report (*Service Quality*) presented on April 7, 1997;

the Sixth Report (*Canada Infrastructure Works Program – Lessons Learned*) presented on April 14, 1997;

the Seventh Report (*Materiel Management in the Federal Government*) presented on April 15, 1997; and

the Ninth Report (*Human Resources Development Canada – Canada Pension Plan: Disability*) presented on April 23, 1997.

At 4:58 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 11

Wednesday, November 26, 1997

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 13 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of Health:

Paul Cochrane, Assistant Deputy Minister, Medical Services Branch;

Myra Conway, Director of Programs and Operations Co-ordination;

Wayne Wortmann, Director General, Non-Insured Health Benefits.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Meeting No. 11)

Wednesday, November 26, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:37 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Jocelyne Girard-Bujold for René Laurin.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Witnesses: (Roundtable Format) From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General. *From the Department of Health:* Paul Cochrane, Assistant Deputy Minister, Medical Services Branch; Jay Wortman, Director General of Non-Insured Health Benefits; Myra Conway, Director of Programs and Operations Coordination.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 13 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada. (Health Canada - First Nations Health) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*).

L. Denis Desautels from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada made a statement.

Paul Cochrane from the Department of Health summarized his statement.

On motion of Elinor Caplan, it was agreed, - That the statement of Paul Cochrane, Department of Health, be appended to this day's evidence.

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:20 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Santosh Sirpaul
Committee Clerk

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 12

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 13 of the December 1997 Annual Report of the Auditor General of Canada and Consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 17 (Human Resources Development Canada—A Critical Transition toward Results-Based Management) of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

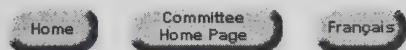
WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Brian Emmett, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development;

Richard Flageole, Deputy Auditor General.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 12

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Raymond Dubois, Deputy Auditor General, Audit Operations; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services; Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General; Brian Emmett, Commissioner of the Environment.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the December 1997 Annual Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, December 2, 1997.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 4:39 o'clock p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 4:44 o'clock p.m., the sitting resumed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to sit *in camera* to consider a Draft Report on Chapter 17 (Human Resources Development Canada – A Critical Transition toward Results-Based Management) of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*).

The Committee considered the entire Draft Report.

It was agreed, - That at the next meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, December 9, 1997 at 3:30 p.m., the agenda be as follows :

1. Formal adoption of the Draft Report on Chapter 17;
2. The Public Accounts of Canada 1997 with representatives of the Secretariat of the Treasury Board and the Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - That the Committee meet on Wednesday, December 10 at 3:30 p.m. to consider a Draft Report on Chapter 19 of the April and October Report of the Auditor General (Transport Canada - - The Commercialization of the Air Navigation System).

At 5:06 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 13

Tuesday, December 9, 1997

ORDER OF THE DAY:

The Committee resumed consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 17 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General (Human Resources Development Canada - A Critical Transition toward Results-Based Management)

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

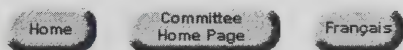
Raymond Dubois, Deputy Auditor General;

Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General.

Treasury Board of Canada:

Rick Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General;

Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 13

Tuesday, December 9, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:34 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Secretariat of the Treasury Board: Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General; Rick Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General. *From the Office of the Auditor General :* Raymond Dubois, Deputy Auditor General; Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General.

The Committee resumed consideration of the Draft Report on Chapter 17 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General (Human Resources Development Canada – A Critical Transition toward Results-Based Management) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Meeting No. 3*).

On motion of Mac Harb, it was agreed, - That the Draft Report be concurred in and that the Chair present the Report to the House.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the *Public Accounts of Canada 1997*, referred to the Committee on Tuesday, October 28, 1997.

The witnesses made opening statements.

It was agreed, - That the opening statement of Ron Thompson be taken as read in its entirety.

The witnesses answered questions.

It was agreed, - That the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure meet tomorrow at 3:30 o'clock p.m. and that the Committee meeting of tomorrow afternoon begin at 4:00 o'clock p.m.

At 5:32 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 14

Wednesday, December 10, 1997

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Report of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure

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Meeting No.14

Wednesday, December 10, 1997

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 4:09 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 308, West B1 Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: André Bachand, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters related future business.

The Chair presented the Third Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as fo

The Sub-Committee met on Wednesday, December 10, 1997 and agreed to recommend the following:

1. That, on a trial basis, during the period of February 3 to the 1998 Easter recess, the Committee meet, week that the House will be sitting, as follows: on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. for meetings on topics (one or two meetings per topic) with witnesses or on Draft Reports to the House; and on Wednesday 3:30 p.m., or 5:30 p.m. if required, for informal *in camera* briefings with the Research Officers of the C and staff from the Office of the Auditor General in preparation for the public meetings.

2. That, during the period of February 3 to April 2, 1998, the Committee hold meetings on the following of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General as follows:

1. **Chapter 25** (Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board -- The Process of Refugee Claims);
2. **Chapter 28** (Fisheries and Oceans Canada -- Pacific Salmon: Sustainability of the Resource Base)

3. **Chapter 35** (Follow-up of Recommendations in Previous Reports -- Indian and Northern Affairs On-Reserve Capital Facilities and Maintenance - 1995, Chapter 23),

and

Chapter 36 (Other Audit Observations -- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

-- Escalating costs of on-reserve water supply project not adequately justified; and

Lack of compliance with funding arrangement results in questionable costs and benefits);

4. **Chapter 29** (Industry Canada -- Management of the Small Business Loans Program);

5. **Chapter 27** (Ozone Layer Protection -- The Unfinished Journey);

6. **Chapter 30** (Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions -- Insurance and Pensions);

7. **Chapter 26** (Canada Labour Relations Board)

and

Chapter 35 (Follow-up of Recommendations in Previous Reports -- Travel and Hospitality - 1994, Chapter 7);

8. **Chapter 31** (Revenue Canada -- The Financial Management Regime)

and

Chapter 32 (Revenue Canada and Department of Finance -- Understanding Changes in Tax Revenue (GST)); and

9. **Chapter 35** (Follow-up of Recommendations in Previous Reports -- Correctional Service Canada Custody of Inmates - 1994, Chapter 16).

It was agreed, - That the Third Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Draft Report Chapter 19 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Transport Canada Commercialization of the Air Navigation System).

On motion of Mac Harb, it was agreed, - That the Committee proceed to sit *in camera* to consider the E Report.

At 4:15 o'clock p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 4:16 o'clock p.m., the sitting resumed *in camera*.

The Committee considered the Draft Report and revisions thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Bloc Québécois be authorized to append a dissenting opinion to the Report of

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House Commons.

At 4:51 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 15

Thursday, February 5, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of chapter 25 of the December 1997 report of the Auditor General of Canada dealing with Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Immigration and Refugee Board, regarding the processing of refugee claims

WITNESSES

Department of Citizenship and Immigration:

Janice Cochrane, Deputy Minister;

John Frecker, Deputy Chairperson, Convention Refugee Determination Division,
Immigration and Refugee Board;

Brian Grant, Acting Director, Enforcement Branch;

Marc Lafrenière, Associate Deputy Minister.

Immigration and Refugee Board:

Nurjehan Mawani, Chairperson;

Paul Thibault, Executive Director.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 15

Thursday, February 5, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi, Elsie Wayne and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Gurbax Malhi for Steve Mahoney.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General; Serge Gaudet, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From Citizenship and Immigration Canada:* Janice Cochrane, Deputy Minister; Marc Lafrenière, Associate Deputy Minister; Brian Grant, Acting Director General, Enforcement Branch. *From Immigration and Refugee Board:* Nurjehan Mawani, Chairperson; Paul Thibault, Executive Director; John Frecker, Deputy Chairperson, Convention Refugee Determination Division.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 25 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board -- The Processing of Refugee Claims) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

L. Denis Desautels, Janice Cochrane and Nurjehan Mawani made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:33 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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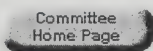
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 16

Tuesday, February 10, 1998

IN CAMERA



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 16

Tuesday, February 10, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in *camera* at 3:36 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Charles Hubbard for Sue Barnes, John Finlay for Ivan Grose, Gurbax Malhi for Steve Mahoney.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 13 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General (Health Canada -- First Nations Health).

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting the Public Accounts of Canada 1997.

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

The Committee agreed to all of the paragraphs of the Draft Report except for paragraphs 12 and 19 which were allowed to stand.

At 4:56 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 17

Thursday, February 12, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 28 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada
(Fisheries and Oceans Canada--Pacific Salmon: Sustainability of the Resource Base)

WITNESSES

Department of Fisheries and Oceans:

Donna Petrachenko, Regional Director General, Pacific Region;

Wayne Wouters, Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Scott Parsons, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science;

Geoffrey Robins, Director, Audit Operations.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 17

Thursday, February 12, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 237-C, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Elsie Wayne and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Janko Peric for Andrew Telegdi.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; John McCullough, Principal, Audit Operations; Geoffrey Robins, Director, Audit Operations. *From Fisheries and Oceans Canada:* Wayne Wouters, Deputy Minister; Cheryl Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy; Scott Parsons, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science; Donna Petrachenko, Regional Director General, Pacific Region.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 28 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada -- Pacific Salmon: Sustainability of the Resource Base) (*See Minutes of Proceedings, dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

The Chair presented the Fourth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on February 3 and 10, 1998 and agreed to recommend the following:

That the members of the Committee meet with the members of a delegation from the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament of Sri Lanka on February 25 at 3:30 p.m., for approximately one hour, for a brief presentation and an exchange of information before proceeding with the briefing that day;

That the members and staff of the Committee attend a reception and dinner co-hosted by the Chair of the Committee and the Auditor General in honour of the visit of the delegation from the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament of Sri Lanka to be held on February 23, 1998 and that the cost to the Committee be charged to the Committee's hospitality budget; and

That the members of the Committee meet with the members of a delegation from the Parliament of Vietnam on February 18, 1998 at 3:30 p.m., for approximately one hour, before proceeding with the

briefing scheduled for that day.

On motion of Mac Harb, the Fourth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure was concurred in.

L. Denis Desautels and Wayne Wouters made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:08 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 18

Tuesday, February 17, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 25 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board — The processing of Refugee Claims)

WITNESSES

Department of Citizenship and Immigration:

Greg Fyffe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Program Development;

Brian Grant, Acting Director General, Enforcement Branch;

GeorgeS Tsai, Assistant Deputy Minister, Management Services;

Gerry Vankessel, Director General, Refugee Branch.

Immigration and Refugee Board:

John Frecker, Vice-Chair, Refugee Status;

Paul Thibault, Executive Director.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 18

Tuesday, February 17, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:34 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 269, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, Elsie Wayne and John Williams.

Acting Member present: John Reynolds for Philip W. Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General; Serge Gaudet, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From Citizenship and Immigration Canada:* Greg Fyffe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Program Development; Georges Tsai, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services; Brian Grant, Acting Director General, Enforcement Branch; Gerry Van Kessel, Director General, Refugee Branch. *From Immigration and Refugee Board:* Paul Thibault, Executive Director; John Frecker, Deputy Chairperson, Convention Refugee Determination Division.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 25 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board -- The Processing of Refugee Claims) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:24 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 19

Thursday, February 19, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 29 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada
(Industry Canada – Management of the Small Business Loans Program)

WITNESSES

Department of Industry:

Serge Croteau, Director General, Programs and Services;

Kevin G. Lynch, Deputy Minister;

Peter Sagar, Director General, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Office;

Marie-Josée Thivierge, Director, Strategic Planning and Corporate Services.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 19

Thursday, February 19, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a *televised meeting* at 3:32 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 253-D, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Sue Barnes, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Elsie Wayne and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Rick Casson for Philip W. Mayfield; John Solomon for Lorne Nystrom.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General; Harry A. Ruthnum, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From Industry Canada:* Kevin G. Lynch, Deputy Minister; Peter Sagar, Director General, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Office; Marie-Josée Thivierge, Director, Strategic Planning and Corporate Services; Serge Croteau, Director General, Programs and Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 29 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Industry Canada -- Management of the Small Business Loans Program) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

L. Denis Desautels and Kevin G. Lynch made opening statements and, with the other witnesses,

answered questions.

At 5:28 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 20

Thursday, February 26, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 27 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada
(Ozone Layer Protection—The Unfinished Journey)

WITNESSES

Department of Health:

Rod Raphael, Acting Director General, Environmental Health Directorate, Health
Protection Branch.

Department of Public Works and Government Services:

Bruce Lorimer, Director General, Architectural and Engineering Services.

Environment Canada:

Angus Fergusson, Scientist, Atmospheric Environment Service;

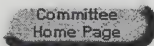
François Guimont, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Service;

Bernard Madé, Acting Chief, Chemicals Control Division.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Brian Emmett, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development;

John Reed, Director, Audit Operations Branch.



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Meeting No. 20

Thursday, February 26, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:37 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 237-C, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Ivan Grose, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Brian Emmett, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development; John Reed, Director, Audit Operations Branch. *From Environment Canada:* François Guimont, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Service; Bernard Madé, Acting Chief, Chemicals Control Division; Angus Fergusson, Scientist, Atmospheric Environment Service. *From Public Works and Government Services:* Bruce Lorimer, Director General, Architectural and Engineering Services. *From Health Canada:* Rod Raphael, Acting Director General, Environmental Health Directorate, Health Protection Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 27 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Ozone Layer Protection--The Unfinished Journey) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

The witnesses made opening statements and answered questions.

At 4:56 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 21

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e), consideration of Chapters 35 and 36 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Indian Affairs and Northern Development:

Brent DiBartolo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services;

Scott Serson, Deputy Minister;

Cynthia Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 21

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3 :40 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Odina Desrochers, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Gurbax Malhi for Elinor Caplan, Mike Scott for Jason Kenney.

Other Member present: Charles Hubbard

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada:* Scott Serson, Deputy Minister; Cynthia Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister, Socio-Economic Policy and Programming and Program Re-design Sector; Brent DiBartolo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapters 35 and 36 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Follow-up of Recommendations in Previous Reports -- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada -- On Reserve Capital Facilities and Maintenance -- 1995, Chapter 23, (para. 35.243-65); Other Audit Observations -- Escalating costs of on-reserve water supply projects not adequately justified (para.36.32-41) and Lack of compliance with funding arrangement results in questionable costs and benefits (para.36.42-47)). (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

L. Denis Desautels and Scott Serson made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5 :19 o'clock p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 5 :22 o'clock p.m., the sitting resumed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to sit *in camera* to resume consideration of the Draft Report on the Public Accounts of Canada 1997.

The Committee considered proposed revisions to the Draft Report.

At 6 :13 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 22

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapters 31 and 32 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Revenue Canada – The Financial Management Regime; Revenue Canada and Department of Finance – Understanding Changes in Tax Revenues: GST)

WITNESSES:

Department of Finance:

Peter Devries, Director, Fiscal Policy, Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch;

Paul-Henri Lapointe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.

Revenue Canada:

Bill Boston, Director General, Financial Administration Directorate, Finance and Administration Branch;

John Kowalski, Director General, Audit Directorate;

Robert Wright, Deputy Minister of Revenue.

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Meeting No. 22

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a *televised meeting* at 3 :33 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 253 - D, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi, Elsie Wayne and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Jocelyne Girard-Bujold for René Laurin.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General; and Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General. *From Revenue Canada:* Robert Wright, Deputy Minister; John Kowalski, Director General, Audit Directorate; and Bill Boston, Director General, Financial Administration Directorate, Finance and Administration Branch. *From the Department of Finance :* Paul-Henri Lapointe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch; and Pete DeVries, Director, Fiscal Policy, Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapters 31 and 32 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Revenue Canada -- The Financial Management Regime; Revenue Canada and Department of Finance -- Understanding Changes in Tax Revenues: GST).

L. Denis Desautels, Robert Wright and Paul-Henri Lapointe made opening statements.

It was agreed,- That the text of the opening statement submitted by Robert Wright be appended to this day's evidence.

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5 :28 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 23

Thursday, March 19, 1998

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 23

Thursday, March 19, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:38 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Odina Desrochers, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, Jason Kenney, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Eleni Bakopanos for Sue Barnes, Ken Epp for Philip Mayfield, Jim Jones for Elsie Wayne, Ian Murray for Mac Harb, Alex Shepherd for Mark Assad.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters related to the future business of the Committee.

The Chair presented the Fifth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows :

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Thursday, March 12, 1998 and agreed to recommend that the Committee add the following meetings to its schedule of meetings:

- Thursday, March 19 at 3:30 p.m. to consider the following matters: the Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure, the Draft Report on Chapter 28 (Salmon Fisheries), The Draft Report on Chapter 25 (Refugees) and the Draft Report on the Public Accounts of Canada 1997;
- Tuesday, March 24 at 3:30 p.m. on Chapter 27 (Ozone Layer Protection – The Unfinished Journey) of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General for a second meeting with the witnesses heard on February 26, 1998;
- Tuesday, April 21 at 3:30 p.m. on the Main Estimates 1998-99 of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada; and
- A meeting in May on the Year 2000 Project.

It was agreed, -That the reference to the proposed meeting on March 24 be deleted.

It was agreed, -That the Fifth Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure, as amended, be concurred.

At 3:41 o'clock p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 3:43 o'clock p.m., the sitting resumed.

The Committee proceeded to sit *in camera* to consider a Draft Report on Chapter 28 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada- - Pacific Salmon : Sustainability of the Resource Base).

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed revisions thereto.

It was agreed, -That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, -That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, -That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair or the Vice-Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 25 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board -- The Processing of Refugee Claims).

The Committee considered part of the Draft Report and proposed revisions thereto.

It was agreed, -That the Committee meet on Thursday, March 26, 1998 at 3 :30 p.m. and that the Order of business be as follows : (1) Draft Report on the Public Accounts of Canada 1996-97; and (2) Draft Report on Chapter 25 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General.

At 5 :43 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No.24

Thursday, March 26, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:38 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, Ivan Grose, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Lorne Nystrom, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and Elsie Wayne.

Acting Members present: John Bryden for Mark Assad, John Richardson for Elinor Caplan, Sophia Leung for Steve Mahoney, Gerry Ritz for John Williams, Rob

Anders for Jason Kenney, Derrek Konrad for Philip W. Mayfield, Paul Szabo for Lynn Myers.

In attendance : From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of the Draft Report on the Public Accounts of Canada 1996-97 (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, December 9, 1997, Meeting No. 13*).

The Committee resumed consideration of paragraph 12 of the Draft Report and proposed revisions thereto.

Paragraph 12, as amended, was agreed to.

Paragraph 19 was agreed to.

It was agreed, -That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in;

That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report; and

That the Report, as amended, be presented to the House of Commons.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed, -That the Report be further amended by adding a new paragraph and recommendation before the last paragraph.

It was agreed, -That the members of the opposition parties be authorized to have appended to the Report dissenting opinions, pursuant to Standing Order 109, provided that the dissenting opinions are received by the Clerk of the Committee not later than Tuesday, March 31, 1998.

At 4:48 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 25

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 30 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions – Insurance and Pensions)

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General;

Crystal Pace, Director, Audit Operations Branch.

Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions:

Edna MacKenzie, Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services Sector;

John Palmer, Superintendent;

John Thompson, Deputy Superintendent, Policy Sector.

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Meeting No. 25

Tuesday, March 31, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:31 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Vice-Chair, Andrew Telegdi, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and Elsie Wayne.

Acting Member present: Gerry Ritz for Gurmant Grewal.

Other Member present: Eleni Bakopanos.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L.Denis Desautels, Auditor General; Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General; Crystal Pace, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions:* John Palmer, Superintendent of Financial Institutions; John Thompson, Deputy Superintendent, Policy Sector; Edna MacKenzie, Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services Sector.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 30 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions – Insurance and Pensions) (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

L. Denis Desautels and John Palmer made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:16 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 26

Thursday, April 2, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 35 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Correctional Service Canada:

Lynn Balice, Director, Ministerial Liaison;

Ole Ingstrup, Commissioner.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Deputy Auditor General;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No.26

Thursday, April 2, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:56 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, Andrew Telegdi, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and Andrew Telegdi.

Acting Member present: Myron Thompson for John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; Robert W. Chen, Director,

Audit Operations Branch. *From Correctional Service of Canada:* Ole Ingstrup, Commissioner; Lynn Balice, Director, Ministerial Liaison.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 35 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada, paragraphs 35.61 – 35.79 (Follow-up of recommendations in Previous Reports – Correctional Service Canada – Custody of Inmates – 1994, Chapter 16). (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Wednesday, December 3, 1997, Meeting No. 12*).

L. Denis Desautels and Ole Ingstrup made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:35 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 27

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the Main Estimates 1998-99: Vote 30 under FINANCE (Auditor General of Canada)

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 27

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Odina Desrochers, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Bryon Wilfert for Sue Barnes.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Main Estimates 1998-99: Vote 30 under FINANCE (Auditor General of Canada) referred to the Committee on Thursday, February 26, 1998.

L. Denis Desautels and Michael McLaughlin made opening statements and answered questions.

Vote 30 carried.

Ordered, -That the Chair report Vote 30 under FINANCE to the House of Commons.

At 5:26 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 28

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 28

Thursday, April 23, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:48 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, Ivan Grose, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and John Williams.

Acting Members present: John Maloney for Mark Assad, Ian Murray for Steve Mahoney, David Pratt for Sue Barnes.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of the Draft Report on Chapter 25 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board – The Processing of Refugee Claims).

Paragraphs 13 to 19 inclusive were agreed to.

At 4:37 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 29

Thursday, April 30, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations;

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 29

Thursday, April 30, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in a televised session* at 4:00 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 253-D of the Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Lorne Nystrom, Rey Pagtakhan and John Williams.

Acting Members present: John Herron for Elsie Wayne, Judi Longfield for Andrew Telegdi, Carmen Provenzano for Steve Mahoney.

Other Member present: John Harvard.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, April 28, 1998.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:30 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 30

Thursday, May 5, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Future business of the Committee

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 30

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:40 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 308 of the West Block, the Vice-Chair, Andrew Telegdi, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Gurmant Grewal, René Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and Andrew Telegdi.

Acting Members present: Lou Sekora for Ivan Grose, Joe Jordan for Steve Mahoney.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108 (3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters related to the future business of the Committee.

The Chair presented the Sixth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Thursday, April 30, 1998 and agreed to recommend the following:

1. That the Committee hold meetings on the following matters before the summer recess:
 - Draft Reports to the House on various subjects on which the Committee held meetings with witnesses;
 - A televised meeting on Chapter 27 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Ozone Layer Protection - - The Unfinished Journey);
 - A televised meeting on Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General Of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000);
 - Chapter 3 (National Defence – Equipping and Modernizing the Canadian Forces) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General;
 - Chapter 4 (National Defence – Buying Major Capital Equipment) of the April 1998 Report;
 - Chapter 7 (Federal Laboratories for Human and Animal Health Building Project) of the April 1998 Report; and
 - If time permits, Chapter 6 (Population Aging and Information for Parliament : Understanding the Choices) of the April 1998 Report.
1. That the Chair of the Committee be authorized to seek the authority and the necessary funds to permit up to four (4) members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and two (2) staff persons of the Committee to travel to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to attend the Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees from August 15 to 18, 1998; and that the

members attending the Conference utilize their air travel points to travel to the Conference.

After debate, Recommendation No.1 of the Report was agreed to.

After debate, Recommendation No. 2 of the Report was allowed to stand.

At 3:53 o'clock p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 3:54 o'clock p.m., the sitting resumed.

The Committee proceeded to sit *in camera* to resume consideration of the Draft

Report respecting Chapter 25 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board - - The Processing of Refugee Claims).

Paragraphs 20 to 29 were agreed to.

It was agreed,- That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed,- That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered,- That the Report, as amended, be presented to the House of Commons.

It was agreed,- That the members of the Committee be authorized to have dissenting opinions appended to the Report to the House provided that the dissenting opinions are submitted to the Clerk of the Committee within the next 48 hours.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 29 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Industry Canada - - Management of the Small Business Loans Program).

Paragraphs 1 to 26 were agreed to.

It was agreed,- That the Draft Report be concurred in.

It was agreed,- That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered,- That the Report be presented to the House of Commons.

It was agreed,- That the Committee meet on Thursday, May 7, 1998 to consider a Draft Report respecting Chapter 35 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada, paragraphs 35.61 - 35.79 (Follow-up of Recommendations in Previous Reports - Correctional Service Canada - Custody of Inmates).

At 4:48 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 31

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

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Meeting No. 31

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:34 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209 of the West Block, the Vice-Chair, Ivan Grose, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Sue Barnes, Mac Harb, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Lynn Myers and Andrew Telegdi.

Acting Members present: Roy Bailey for Gurmant Grewal, Ovid Jackson for Steve Mahoney, Chuck Strahl for John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 35 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada, paragraphs 35.61 - 35.79 (Follow-up of Recommendations in Previous Reports - Correctional Service Canada - Custody of Inmates).

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed,- That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed,- That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered,- That the Report, as amended, be presented to the House of Commons.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 32 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Revenue Canada and Department of Finance - - Understanding Changes in Tax Revenues: GST).

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed,- That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed,- That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered,- That the Report, as amended, be presented to the House of Commons.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 31 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Revenue Canada - - Financial Management Regime).

• The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed,- That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in, on division.

It was agreed,- That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered,- That the Report, as amended, be presented to the House of Commons.

It was agreed,- That the members of the Bloc Québécois be authorized to have appended to the Report on Chapter 31 a dissenting opinion provided that the dissenting opinion is submitted to the Clerk of the Committee within the next 48 hours.

At 5:27 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 32

Thursday, May 14, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 27 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada
(Ozone Layer Protection — The Unfinished Journey)

WITNESSES:

Department of Health:

Rod Raphael, Acting Director General, Environmental Health Directorate, Health
Protection Branch.

Environment Canada:

François Guimont, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Service;

David Wardle, Chief, Experimental Studies, Atmospheric Environment Division.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Brian Emmett, Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Public Works and Government Services Canada:

Bruce Lorimer, Director General, Architectural and Engineering Services, Real Properties
Services Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 32

Thursday, May 14, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in a televised session* at 3:31 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 253-D of the Centre Block, the Vice-Chair, Ivan Grose, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Mac Harb, Ivan Grose, René Laurin and Lynn Myers.

Acting Members present: Rob Anders for Philip W. Mayfield, Mauril Bélanger for Andrew Telegdi, John Reynolds for Gurmant Grewal.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Brian Emmett, Commissioner, Environment and Sustainable Development. *From Environment Canada:* François Guimont, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Service; David Wardle, Chief, Experimental Studies Division, Air Quality Research Branch, Atmospheric Environment Service. *From Public Works and Government Services Canada:* Bruce Lorimer, Director General, Architectural and Engineering Services. *From Health Canada:* Rod Raphael, Acting Director General, Environmental Health Directorate, Health Protection Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed resuming consideration of Chapter 27 of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Ozone Layer Protection - - The Unfinished Journey). (See *Minutes of Proceedings* dated Thursday, February 26, 1998).

The witnesses made opening statements and answered questions.

At 5:23 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 33

Tuesday, May 26, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000)

WITNESSES:

Department of Human Resources Development:

Hy Braiter, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.

Public Works and Government Services Canada:

Grant Westcott, Assistant Deputy Minister, Government Telecommunications and Informatics Services.

Treasury Board Secretariat:

Jim Bimson, Program Director, Year 2000 Project;

Guy McKenzie, Assistant Secretary, CIO Year 2000 Project;

Paul Rummell, Chief Information Officer.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 33

Tuesday, May 26, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in a televised session* at 3:44 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 253-D of the Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Nancy Cheng, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Treasury Board Secretariat:* Paul Rummell, Chief Information Officer; Guy McKenzie, Assistant Secretary, CIO Year 2000 Project; Jim Bimson, Program Director, Year 2000 Office. *From Human Resources Development Canada:* Hy Braiter, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery. *From the Public Works and Government Services Canada:* Grant Westcott, Assistant Deputy Minister, Government Telecommunications and Informatics Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General Of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000). (See *Minutes of Proceedings* dated Tuesday, October 28, 1997, Meeting No. 5).

L. Denis Desautels and Paul Rummell made opening statements.

In accordance with the order of the Committee adopted on Wednesday, October 8, 1997 the Chair authorized that the written statement of Paul Rummell be appended to this day's evidence. (See *Appendix PACC-3*).

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:35 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 34

Thursday, May 28, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 3 (National Defence — Equipping and Modernizing the Canadian Forces) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of National Defence:

J.M.G. Baril, General, Chief of the Defence Staff;

Jim Judd, Deputy Minister;

Pierre Lagueux, Assistant Deputy Minister, Materiel.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 34

Thursday, May 28, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209 of the West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Robert Nault for Sue Barnes.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General; Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Department of National Defence:* Jim Judd, Deputy Minister; Gen J.M.G. Baril, Chief of the Defence Staff; Pierre Lagueux, Assistant Deputy Minister, Materiel.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 3 (National Defence - Equipping and Modernizing the Canadian Forces) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada. (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Thursday, April 30, 1998, Meeting No. 29*).

David Rattray, Jim Judd and Gen. J.M.G. Baril made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:31 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 35

Tuesday, June 2, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 4 (National Defence — Buying Major Capital Equipment) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of National Defence:

J.M.G. Baril, General, Chief of the Defence Staff;
Jim Judd, Deputy Minister;
Pierre Lagueux, Assistant Deputy Minister, Materiel.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;
Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;
David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 35

Tuesday, June 2nd, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209 of the West Block, the Vice-Chair, Andrew Telegdi, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Gurmant Grewal, Ivan Grose, René Laurin, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Rey Pagtakhan and Andrew Telegdi.

Acting Member present: Leon Benoit for Jason Kenney.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General; Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Department of National Defence:* Jim Judd, Deputy Minister; Gen J.M.G. Baril, Chief of the Defence Staff; Pierre Lagueux, Assistant Deputy Minister, Materiel.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 4 (National Defence - Buying Major Capital Equipment) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada. (See *Minutes of Proceedings dated Thursday, April 30, 1998, Meeting No. 29*).

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement.

The witnesses answered questions.

Ivan Grose moved,- That the Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put on the motion, it was negatived on the following division:

YEAS:

- 0;

NAYS:

Sue Barnes
Odina Desrochers
René Laurin
Rey Pagtakhan

Leon Benoit
Gurmant Grewal
Philip W. Mayfield

Elinor Caplan
Mac Harb
Lynn Myers

- 10.

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:26 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 36

Thursday, June 4, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 7 (Federal Laboratories for Human and Animal Health Building Project) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

Norman Willis, Executive Director, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease
(Winnipeg).

Health Canada:

Joe Losos, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Protection Branch.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.

Public Works and Government Services Canada:

Bruce Lorimer, Director General, Architectural and Engineering Services, Real Property
Services Branch;

Michael Nurse, Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Services Branch.

Secretariat of the Treasury Board of Canada:

Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General.

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Meeting No. 36

Thursday, June 4th, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:32 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209 of the West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Odina Desrochers, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Andrew Telegdi and John Williams.

Acting Members present: David Pratt for Rey Pagtakhan, John Richardson for Sue Barnes, Judy Wasylycia-Leis for Lorne Nystrom.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General. *From the Secretariat of the Treasury Board of Canada:* Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General. *From Health Canada:* Dr. Joe Losos, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Protection Branch. *From the Canadian Food Inspection Agency:* Dr. Norman Willis, Executive Director, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (Winnipeg). *From the Public Works and Government Services Canada:* Michael Nurse, Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Services Branch; Bruce Lorimer, Director General, Architectural and Engineering Services, Real Property Services Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 7 (Federal Laboratories for Human and Animal Health Building Project) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada. (See *Minutes of Proceedings dated Thursday, April 30, 1998, Meeting No. 29*).

L. Denis Desautels, Dr. Joe Losos, Dr. Norman Willis, Michael Nurse and Colin Potts made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

On motion of Andrew Telegdi, it was agreed,- That the Chair of the Committee be authorized to seek the authority and the necessary funds to permit up to five (5) members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and two (2) staff persons of the Committee to travel to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to attend the Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees from August 15 to 18, 1998; and that the members attending the Conference utilize their air travel points to travel to the Conference.

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:35 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 37

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 6 (Population Aging and Information for Parliament: Understanding the Choices) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of Finance:

Scott Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance;

Don Drummond, Associate Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Basil Zafiriou, Director, Audit Operations Branch.

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Meeting No. 37

Tuesday, June 9th, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:34 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209 of the West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Mac Harb, Ivan Grose, Jason Kenney, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Maurice Dumas for Odina Desrochers.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Basil Zafiriou, Director, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Department of Finance:* Scott Clark, Deputy Minister; Don Drummond, Associate Deputy Minister.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 6 (Population Aging and Information for Parliament: Understanding the Choices) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada. (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Thursday, April 30, 1998, Meeting No. 29*).

L. Denis Desautels and Scott Clark made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:00 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 38

Thursday, June 11, 1998

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 38

Thursday, June 11th, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:48 o'clock p.m., this day, in Room 209 of the West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Sue Barnes, Elinor Caplan, Odina Desrochers, Mac Harb, Ivan Grose, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Rey Pagtakhan and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Janko Peric for Andrew Telegdi.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal and Jean Dupuis, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 35 (Follow-up of Recommendations in Previous Reports: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - - On - Reserve Capital Facilities and Maintenance - 1995, Chapter 23) and Chapter 36 (Other Audit Observations - - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: On - Reserve Water Supply Project; Lack of Compliance with Funding Arrangement) of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General Canada. (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, March 10, 1998, Meeting No. 21*).

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed revisions thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons or tabled with the Clerk of the House.

At 4:48 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 39

Thursday, October 1st, 1998

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Election of a Chairman

Study of September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.;

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General;

Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(TEXT)

Meeting No. 39

Thursday, October 1st, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, for the purpose of electing a Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 106(1).

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Eugène Bellemare, Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, and John Williams.

Acting Members present: John MacKay for Steve Mahoney; Carmen Provenzano for Jerry Pickard; Gurmant Grewal for Jason Kenney; André Harvey for Elsie Wayne.

Other Member present: Rey Pagtakhan.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General; David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General; Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

The Clerk of the Committee presided over the election of a Chair.

On motion of Philip Mayfield, seconded by Ivan Grose, it was agreed, – That John Williams do take the Chair of this Committee as Chairman.

John Williams took the Chair.

On motion of Mac Harb, it was agreed, – That Lynn Myers be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed, – That Ivan Grose be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, September 29, 1998.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 4:40 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 40

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

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(TEXT)

Meeting No. 40

Tuesday, October 6, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, Jerry Pickard and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters relating to the future business of the Committee.

The Chair presented the Seventh Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Thursday, October 1st, 1998 and agreed to recommend the following:

1. That the Committee hold meetings on the following matters:

(1) the four (4) Draft Reports respecting subjects on which the Committee held meetings with witnesses before the summer recess;

(2) Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General Of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000);

(3) Chapter 10 (Canadian Human Rights Commission - Human Rights Tribunal Panel) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General;

(4) Chapter 14 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – Comprehensive Land Claims) of the September 1998 Report;

(5) Chapter 16 (Management of the Social Insurance Number) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General;

(6) Chapter 18 (The Financial Information Strategy: A Key Ingredient in Getting Government Right) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General; and

(7) if time permits, Chapter 13 (National Energy Board) of the September 1998 Report

of the Auditor General.

2. That a Sub-committee composed of the Chair, two (2) government members and one (1) opposition member be struck to consider and report back to the Committee regarding the advisability of establishing a Sub-committee to hold meetings and prepare a draft report on the need to create an international standard for public-sector financial reporting.
3. That the Chair of the Committee be authorized to seek the authority and the necessary funds to permit six (6) members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, including three (3) members from the government and three (3) members from the opposition, and two (2) staff persons of the Committee to travel to Canberra and Perth, Australia to attend the Fifth Biennial Conference of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees to be held in Perth, Western Australia, in February 1999.
4. That, further to the responses received, during the summer, from various departments regarding the 1997 Reports of the Auditor General, the Chair of the Committee write letters to certain departments whose responses are considered insufficient and that the draft of the letters be distributed to the members of the Steering Committee for comments, one week prior to sending the letters.

Recommendations numbers 1 and 2 were agreed to.

Recommendation number 3 was amended by adding before the words "to attend", the words "for a period of up to two weeks".

Recommendation number 3, as amended, was agreed to.

Recommendation number 4 was agreed to.

The Seventh Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure, as amended, was concurred in.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 30 (Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions - Insurance and Pensions) of the December 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 6 (Population Ageing and Information for Parliament: Understanding the Choices) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 5:20 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 41

Thursday, October 8, 1998

IN CAMERA

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Meeting No. 41

Thursday, October 8, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, Jerry Pickard and John Williams.

Acting Member present: David Price for Elsie Wayne.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 7 of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Federal Laboratories for Human and Animal Health Building Project).

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 4:28 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 4:30 p.m., the sitting resumed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on Chapters 3 and 4 of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (National Defence-Equipping and Modernizing the Canadian Forces and Buying Major Capital Equipment).

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed amendments thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the

House of Commons.

At 5:03 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 42

Tuesday, October 27, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 10 (Canadian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Tribunal Panel) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Canadian Human Rights Commission:

Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay, Chief Commissioner;

John Hucker, Secretary General.

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal:

Anne MacTavish, Chairperson:

Department of Justice:

Patricia Lindsey, Counsel, Public Law Policy Section.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Alan Gilmore, Principal, Audit Operations;

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch.



(TEXT)

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 42

Tuesday, October 27, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:43 p.m. this day, in Room 208, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses :From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General; Alan Gilmore, Principal, Audit Operations; *From the Canadian Human Rights Commission:* Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay, Chair; John Hucker, Secretary General; *From the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal:* Anne Mactavish, Chairperson; Michael P. Glynn, Registrar. *From the Department of Justice:* Patricia Lindsay, Counsel, Public Law Policy Section.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 10 (Canadian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Tribunal Panel) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

David Rattray from the office of the Auditor General made a statement and, with the other witness, answered questions.

Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay from the Human Rights Commission made a statement and, with the other witness, answered questions.

Anne Mactavish from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal made a statement and answered questions.

Patricia Lindsay from the Department of Justice answered questions.

At 5:24 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Santosh Sirpaul

Committee Clerk

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 43

Thursday, October 29, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 18 (The Financial Information Strategy: A Key Ingredient in Getting Government Right) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.

Treasury Board Secretariat:

Richard Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General, Financial Management Policy Sector and Expenditure Analysis and Operations Sector;

J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General, Comptrollership Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 43

Thursday, October 29, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, Lynn Myers, presiding.

Member(s) of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron and Beth Phinney.

Acting Member(s) present: Gurbax Malhi for Steve Mahoney.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witness(es): From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General; Douglas Timmins, Assistant Auditor General; *From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat:* J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General; Richard Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General; Jim Libbey, Director, Financial Management Standards.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 18 (The Financial Information Strategy: A Key Ingredient in Getting Government Right) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels and Colin Potts made statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 4:15 p.m., the acting Chair acknowledged the presence of Mr. Pandiin Byambatseren, Deputy Secretary General of the Grand Hural of Mongolia.

At 5:04 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Carol Chafe

Committee Clerk

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 44

Tuesday, November 3, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000)

WITNESSES:

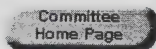
Treasury Board of Canada, Secretariat:

Jim Bimson, Program Director, Year 2000 Project Office;

Richard B. Fadden, Assistant Secretary, Government Operations Sector;

Linda Lizotte-MacPherson, Chief Information Officer;

Guy McKenzie, Assistant Secretary, Year 2000 Project Office.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(TEXT)

Meeting No. 44

Tuesday, November 3, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:53 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney, Jerry Pickard and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Benoît Sauvageau for Gilles-A. Perron; Charlie Power for Elsie Wayne.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses :From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat: Linda Lizotte-MacPherson, Chief Information Officer; Guy McKenzie, Assistant Secretary; Richard B. Fadden, Assistant Secretary; Jim Bimson, Program Director.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 12 of the April and October 1997 Report of the Auditor General Of Canada (Information Technology: Preparedness for Year 2000).

Linda Lizotte-MacPherson made a statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed, - That the written presentation of the Treasury Board Secretariat be printed as an appendix to today's Minutes of Proceedings (see appendix "PACC-1").

At 5:23 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Carol Chafe

Committee Clerk

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 45

Thursday, November 19, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 16 (Management of the Social Insurance Number) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Human Resources Development Canada:

Hy Braiter, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery Network;

Bob Nichols, Director, Insurance Program Services.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch.

Revenue Canada:

Kathy Turner, Director General, Benefit Programs Directorate, Assessment and Collections Branch;

David W. Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Assessment and Collections Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 45

Thursday, November 19, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a televised session at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 253-D, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Member(s) of the Committee present: Mark Assad, John Finlay, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney, Jerry Pickard, Charlie Power and John Williams.

Acting Member(s) present: René Laurin for Serge Cardin.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witness(es): From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General; *From the Revenue Canada:* David W. Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister; Kathy Turner, Director General; *From the Human Resources Development Canada:* Hy Braiter, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister; Bob Nichols, Director; Jacques Bourdages, Associate Director.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 16 (Management of the Social Insurance Number) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels, David Miller and Hy Braiter made statements, and with the other witnesses, answered questions.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed - That the motion adopted by the Committee on October 6th, 1998 be amended to read "Eight (8) members including four (4) members of the government and four (4) members of the opposition" in relation to the Committee's proposed travel to Canberra and Perth, Australia to attend the Fifth Biennial Conference of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees and that the Clerk be instructed to amend the budget accordingly.

At 4:03 p.m., Lynn Myers took the Chair.

At 5:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Marie-Danielle Vachon

Committee Clerk

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 46

Tuesday, November 24, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 14 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada — Comprehensive Land Claims) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development:

Greg Gauld, Director General, Comprehensive Claims Branch, Claims and Indian Government Sector;

Terry Henderson, Director General, Comprehensive Claims Branch, Claims and Indian Government Sector;

Paulette Panzeri, Director, Negotiations Directorate, Specific Claims Branch;

Scott Serson, Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

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Meeting No. 46

Tuesday, November 24, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Jerry Pickard and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Odina Desrochers for Serge Cardin, Mike Scott for Jason Kenney.

Other Member present: Janko Peric.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Grant Wilson, Principal; Ted Bonder, Director. *From the Indian Affairs and Northern Development:* Scott Serson, Deputy Minister; Greg Gauld, Director General, Comprehensive Claims Branch, Claims and Indian Government Sector; Terry Henderson, Director General, Claims Implementation Branch, Claims and Indian Government Sector; Paulette Panzeri, Director, Negotiations Operations, Specific Claims.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 14 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Comprehensive Land Claims) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels and Scott Serson made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:02 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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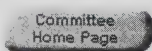
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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 47

Thursday, November 26, 1998

IN CAMERA



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 47

Thursday, November 26, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:43 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Lou Sekora for Eugène Bellemare.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters relating to the future business of the Committee.

The Chair presented the Eight Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Tuesday, November 24, 1998 and agreed to recommend the following:

THAT the Committee hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 1998, at 3:30 p.m., with officials from the Secretariat of the Treasury Board, the Department of Finance and the Auditor General in relation to the Public Accounts of 1998 and Chapter 9 (Reporting Government Financial Results: the Importance of Complying with Objective Accounting Standards) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General.

It was agreed, - That the Eight Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in.

The Chair presented the First Report of the Sub-committee on Financial Reporting which read as follows:

Pursuant to the order of the Committee adopted on October 6th, 1998, the Sub-committee on Financial Reporting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on November 18 and 25, 1998 and agreed to recommend the following:

- THAT the Standing Committee on Public Accounts establish a Sub-Committee to promote the acceptance of international financial reporting guidelines and standards for the public sector;

That the mandate of the Sub-Committee include a review of the current efforts by parliamentarians and international organizations, such as the World Bank, to promote the acceptance of guidelines and standards now being developed under the auspices of the International Federation of Accountants;

That the Sub-Committee be chaired by John Williams and that it be composed of eight (8) members

including four (4) members from the Government and four (4) members from the Opposition to be appointed by the Chair after the usual consultations;

That the Chair of the Sub-Committee be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence in the absence of a quorum, provided that four (4) members are present;

That the Sub-Committee be delegated all of the powers of the Standing Committee, except the power to report to the House;

That the Sub-Committee be authorized to reimburse the travelling expenses of the witnesses which will be charged to the budget of the Standing Committee;

That the Sub-Committee be authorized to seek the authority and the necessary funds to travel, if deemed appropriate; and

That the Sub-Committee report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee no later than May 31st, 1999.

It was agreed, - That the First Report of the Sub-committee on Financial Reporting be concurred in.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 18 (The Financial Information Strategy: A Key Ingredient in Getting Government Right) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The Committee considered the Draft Report and proposed revisions thereto.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 3:52 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 48

Thursday, December 3, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Raymond Dubois, Deputy Auditor General, Audit Operations;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.

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Meeting No. 48

Thursday, December 3, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:47 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Serge Cardin, Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Shaughnessy Cohen for Mark Assad, Roy Bailey for Jason Kenney.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Raymond Dubois, Deputy Auditor General; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, December 1st, 1998.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:00 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 49

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the Public Accounts of Canada 1998 and Chapter 9, "Reporting Government Financial Results: The importance of complying with objective accounting standards" of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat:

Richard Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General, Financial Management Policy Sector and Expenditure Analysis and Operations Sector;

J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General, Comptrollership Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 49

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a televised session at 3:34 p.m. this day, in Room 253-D, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Lynn Myers, Jerry Pickard and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Roy Bailey for Philip Mayfield, Gurmant Grewal for Jason Kenney.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General. *From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat:* J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General; Richard Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General. *From the Department of Finance:* Peter DeVries, Director, Fiscal Policy.

The Chair presented the Ninth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Thursday, December 3, 1998 and agreed to recommend the following:

THAT, after the Xmas recess, the Committee hold meetings in relation to the following chapters of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General :

1. Chapter 20 (Preparedness for Year 2000: Government-Wide Mission-Critical Systems);
2. Chapter 25 (Transport Canada – Investments in Highways);
3. Chapter 26 (Contracting for Professional Services: Selected Sole-Source Contracts);
4. Chapter 27 (Grants and Contributions: Selected Programs in Industry Canada and Department of Canadian Heritage); and
5. If time permits, Chapter 24 (Revenue Canada—International Tax Directorate: Human Resource Management).

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed, - That the Ninth Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Public Accounts of Canada 1998 and Chapter 9 (Reporting Government Financial Results: The importance of complying with objective accounting standards) of the April 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was ordered, - That the documents submitted by the Auditor General and identified as "Annex A" and "Annex B" be taken as read and published with the evidence of today's meeting.

J. Colin Potts made an opening statement.

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:03 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 50

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 50

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:42 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Ivan Grose, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Ian Murray for Mac Harb and Walt Lastewka for Jerry Pickard.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to examine Chapter 16 (Management of the Social Insurance Number) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft report.

It was agreed, - That the draft report, as amended, be adopted as the Twentieth Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the report.

It was agreed, - That the Chair of the Committee be authorized to present the Report to the House.

At 4:30 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to examine Chapter 10 (Canadian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Tribunal Panel) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft report.

At 5:20 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk(s) of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 51

Thursday, February 4, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 51

Thursday, February 4, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:52 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Eugène Bellemare, Serge Cardin, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Colleen Beaumier for Mark Assad; and Jim Abbott for Philip Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed its consideration of a draft report on Chapter 10 (Canadian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Tribunal Panel) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

The Committee resumed its consideration of a draft report.

It was agreed, - That the Chair, on behalf of the the Committee, write to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, urging that Committee, as recommended in its Twenty-first Report to the House, to undertake a thorough review of the Canadian Human Rights Act, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, taking into account the concerns and recommendations of the Auditor General of Canada as expressed in Chapter 10 of his September 1998 Report to the House of Commons.

It was agreed, - That the draft report, as amended, be adopted as the Twenty-first Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

Ordered, - That the Chair of the Committee present the Report to the House of Commons.

At 3:54 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 52

Thursday, February 9, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 20 (Preparedness for Year 2000: Government-Wide Mission-Critical Systems) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Nancy Cheng, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.

Treasury Board Secretariat:

Jim Bimson, Director General, Departmental Readiness, Year 2000 Project Office;

Richard B. Fadden, Assistant Secretary, Government Operations Sector;

Linda Lizotte-MacPherson, Chief Information Officer;

Guy McKenzie, Assistant Secretary, Year 2000 Project Office.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 52

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a televised session at 3:40 p.m. this day, in Room 253-D, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Marlene Catterall for Ivan Grose; and Jim Jones for Charlie Power.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witness(es): From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Douglas Timmins, Assistant Auditor General; Nancy Cheng, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; *From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat:* Linda Lizotte-MacPherson, Chief Information Officer; Guy McKenzie, Assistant Secretary; Jim Bimson, Director General, Departmental Readiness; Richard B. Fadden, Assistant Secretary.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee commenced consideration of Chapter 20 (Preparedness for Year 2000: Government-Wide Mission-Critical Systems) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

Denis Desautels and Linda Lizotte-MacPherson each made an opening statement and, with Jim Bimson, Richard Fadden, Nancy Cheng and Guy McKenzie, answered questions.

It was agreed, - That the presentation of the Treasury Board become part of the permanent record of the Committee.

At 5:24 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk(s) of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 53

Thursday, February 11, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY

Consideration of Chapter 27 (Grants and Contributions: Selected Programs in Industry Canada and Department of Canadian Heritage) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Peter Simeoni, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

Department of Canadian Heritage:

Norman Moyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Citizenship and Canadian Identity.

Industry Canada:

Michael Binder, Assistant Deputy Minister, Spectrum, Information Technologies and Telecommunications;

Diane Vincent, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 53

Thursday, February 11, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Member(s) of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, John Williams.

Acting Member(s) present: Roy Bailey for Philip Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witness(es): From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Peter Simeoni, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; *From Canadian Heritage:* Norman Moyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Identity; Anne Scotton, Director General, Corporate Review; *From Industry Canada:* Diane Vincent, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations Sector; Michael Binder, Assistant Deputy Minister, Spectrum, Information Technologies and Telecommunications.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 27 (Grants and Contributions: Selected Programs in Industry Canada and Department of Canadian Heritage) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels, Norman Moyer and Diane Vincent each made an opening statement and, with Michael Binder and Peter Simeoni, answered questions.

At 5:07 p.m., by unanimous consent, the Committee proceeded to sit *in camera*.

The Chair presented the Tenth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure, which reads as follows:

THAT, the Sub-Committee on International Financial Reporting Guidelines and Standards to be chaired by John Williams, be composed of nine (9) Members or Associate Members of the Committee, including one Member from each Opposition party and five (5) Members from the Government, to be named following the usual consultations with the Whips.

THAT the Chair of the Sub-Committee be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence when a quorum is not present, provided at least three (3) members are present, including a Member of the Opposition.

THAT the Chair and the Auditor General of Canada report back to the Sub-Committee upon their return from the Conference of the Public Accounts Committees in Australia.

The Chair briefed the Sub-Committee on the proposal for an International Organization of Public

Accounts Committees.

THAT the Committee examine the Report on the Receipts and Disbursements of the Office of the Auditor General for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998 in conjunction with its examination of the Main Estimates of the Office of the Auditor General, 1999-2000.

THAT the Chair on behalf of the Committee, write to the Chief Information Officer at Treasury Board requesting that more detailed information on Y2K preparations be posted on the Info 2000 website regarding government-wide mission critical functions.

It was agreed, - That the Tenth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in.

At 5:13 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Christine Fisher

Committee Clerks

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 54

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 54

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:45 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, Lynn Myers, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney.

Acting Members present: John Cannis for Mark Assad; Murray Calder for Jerry Pickard; Mike Scott for John Williams; and Claude Bachand for Serge Cardin.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 14 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Comprehensive Land Claims) of the September 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, November 24, 1998, Meeting No. 46*).

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft Report.

It was agreed, - That the draft Report, as amended, be adopted as the Twenty-Second Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report

Ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 4:00 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 20 (Preparedness for Year 2000: Government-Wide Mission-Critical Systems) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, February 9, 1999, Meeting No. 52*).

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft Report.

It was agreed, - That the draft Report, as amended, be adopted as the Twenty-Third Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report

Ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 4:07 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk(s) of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 55

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 26 (Contracting for Professional Services: Selected Sole-Source contracts) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat:

J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General, Comptrollership Branch;

Alan Winberg, Assistant Secretary, Risk, Procurement and Asset Management Sector.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 55

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, Serge Cardin, Ivan Grose, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General; Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; *From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat:* J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General, Comptrollership Branch; Alan Winberg, Assistant Secretary, Risk, Procurement and Asset Management Sector; R. J. Kelly, Director, Contract Policy Division.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 26 (Contracting for Professional Services: Selected Sole-Source Contracts) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels and J. Colin Potts each made an opening statement and, with Shahid Minto, Hugh McRoberts and Alan Winberg, answered questions.

At 5:14 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 56

Thursday, March 11, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 56

Thursday, March 11, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:38 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Serge Cardin, Mac Harb, John Finlay, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney, and John Williams.

Acting Member(s) present: Ovid Jackson for Mark Assad; John McKay for Eugène Bellemare Bill Graham for Ivan Grose; and John Bryden for Jerry Pickard

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 27 (Grants and Contributions: Selected Programs in Industry Canada and Department of Canadian Heritage) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (*See Minutes of Proceedings, dated Thursday, February 11, 1999, Meeting No. 53*).

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft Report.

It was agreed, - That the draft Report, as amended, be adopted as the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report

Ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 3:55 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk(s) of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 57

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 25 (Transport Canada – Investments in Highways) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;
Basia Gadomski-Ruta, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;
Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.

Transport Canada:

Margaret Bloodworth, Deputy Minister of Transport;
Ralph Jones, Director, Surface Program;
Louis Ranger, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Group;
Ronald Sully, Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs and Divestiture.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 57

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a televised session at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 253-D, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Mac Harb, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney, and John Williams.

Acting Members present: Lou Sekora for Steve Mahoney; Lee Morrison for Philip Mayfield; Michel Guimond for Serge Cardin; and Bev Desjarlais for Lorne Nystrom.

Other Member present: Bill Casey.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis, Research Officer.

Witness(es): From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General; Basia Gadomski-Ruta, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; *From Transport Canada:* Margaret Bloodworth, Deputy Minister; Louis Ranger, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Group; Ronald Sully, Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs and Divestiture Group; and Ralph Jones, Director, Surface Program.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 25 (Transport Canada - Investments in Highways) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels and Margaret Bloodworth each made an opening statement and, with Ronald Sully, Louis Ranger, Ralph Jones, Basia Gadomski-Ruta and Shahid Minto, answered questions.

At 5:23 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 58

Thursday, March 23, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of chapter 24 (Revenue Canada—International Tax Directorate: Human Resource Management) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.

Revenue Canada:

David Brown, Director General, Human Resources Agency Team;

Barry Lacombe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Verification, Enforcement and Compliance Research Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 58

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a televised session at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 253-D, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Member(s) of the Committee present: Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney, John Williams.

In attendance: From the Parliamentary Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers; *From Committees and Legislative Services:* Christine Fisher, Committee Clerk.

Witness(es): From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General; Barry Elkin, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; *From the Revenue Canada:* Barry Lacombe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Verification, Enforcement and Compliance Research Branch; David Brown, Director General, Human Resources Agency Team.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 24 (Revenue Canada - International Tax Directorate: Human Resource Management) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels and Barry Lacombe each made an opening statement and, with Shahid Minto and David Brown, answered questions.

At 5:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Janice Hilchie

Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 59

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the Main Estimates 1999-2000: Votes 25 and 30 under FINANCE (Office of the Auditor General) and of the Report on the receipts and disbursements of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General of Canada;

Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 59

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:30 p.m. this day, in Room 701, La Promenade Building, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Member(s) of the Committee present: Serge Cardin, John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, John Williams.

Other Member present: John McKaye.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services; Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Main Estimates 1999-2000: Votes 25 and 30 under FINANCE (Office of the Auditor General) and of the Report on the receipts and disbursements of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:20 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie
Clerk of the Committee

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 60

Thursday, April 22, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the priorities of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Ray Dubois, Deputy Auditor General.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 60

Thursday, April 22, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a televised session at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 253-D, Centre Block, the Vice-chair, Lynn Myers, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General; Ray Dubois, Assistant Auditor General.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider the priorities of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The Auditor General made an opening statement and, with the witnesses, answered questions.

At 4:40 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 61

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 61

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:41 p.m. this day, in Room 536, Wellington Building, the Vice-Chair, Lynn Myers, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, Charlie Power.

Acting Members present: Rick Casson for Paul Forseth.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 24 (Revenue Canada - International Tax Directorate: Human Resource Management) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, March 23, 1999, Meeting No. 58*).

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft Report.

At 3:55 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of Chapter 25 (Transport Canada - Investments in Highways) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, March 16, 1999, Meeting No. 57*).

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft Report.

At 4:10 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of Chapter 26 (Contracting for Professional Services: Selected Sole-Source Contracts) of the December 1998 Report of the Auditor General of Canada (*See Minutes of Proceedings dated Tuesday, March 9, 1999, Meeting No. 55*).

The Committee proceeded to examine a draft Report.

On motion of Philip Mayfield, Votes 25 and 30 under FINANCE (Office of the Auditor General of Canada) were carried.

Ordered, - That the Chair report Votes 25 and 30 under FINANCE to the House of Commons.

It was agreed, - That the draft Report on Chapter 24, as amended, be adopted as the Twenty-Six Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the draft Report on Chapter 25, as amended, be adopted as the Twenty-Seventh Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the draft Report on Chapter 26, as amended, be adopted as the Twenty-Eight Report of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Reports as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Reports.

Ordered, - That the Reports, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 4:30 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 62

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 2 (Revenue Canada - Underground Economy Initiative) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.

Revenue Canada:

Barry Lacombe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Verification, Enforcement, and Compliance Research Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 62

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mark Assad, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, John Williams.

Acting Members present: Caroline Bennett for Eugène Bellemare; Derek Konrad for Philip Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General; Barry Elkin, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Revenue Canada:* Barry Lacombe, Assistant Deputy Minister, Verification, Enforcement and Compliance Research Branch; John Kowalski, Director General, Audit Directorate; Dominique Short, Director General, Compliance Research Directorate.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 2 (Revenue Canada - Underground Economy Initiative) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Shahid Minto and Barry Lacombe made an opening statement and answered questions.

The Chairman presented the Eleventh Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Tuesday, April 27, 1999 and agreed to recommend the following:

1. THAT, the Committee hold meetings in relation to the following chapters of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada:
 - Chapter 4 (Fisheries and Oceans -
Managing Atlantic Shellfish in a Sustainable Manner)
 - Chapter 10 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Funding Arrangements for First Nations: Follow-up)
 - Chapter 2 (Revenue Canada - Underground Economy Initiative)
 - Chapter 6 (Human Resources Development Canada – Accountability for Shared Social Programs: National Child Benefit and Employability Assistance for People with Disabilities)

If time permits:

- Chapter 3 (Statistics Canada - Managing the Quality of Statistics)
- Chapter 7 (The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy: Contributions and Grants)
- Chapter 8 (The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy: Follow-up)
- Other Audit observations: (National Defence and Health Canada)
- Chapter 1 (Correctional Service Canada - Reintegration of Offenders)

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed, - That the Eleventh Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in.

On motion of Lynn Myers, - it was agreed That notwithstanding the adoption of the Report of the Subcommittee on International Financial Reporting Guidelines and Standards for the Public Sector on Thursday, November 26, 1998; the reporting date for the findings and recommendations be changed from May 31, 1999 to November 30 1999.

On motion of Lynn Myers, it was agreed, - That the Committee adopt a Budget of \$8,592.00 to cover witnesses expenses who will appear before the Subcommittee on Financial Reporting Guidelines.

It was agreed, - That the Committee adopt a Budget of \$9,958.54 to attend the Conference of the Canadian Association of Public Accounts Committees in Quebec City in August and that the support staff accompany the Committee.

At 5:25 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 63

Thursday, May 13, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 4 (Fisheries and Oceans - Managing Atlantic Shellfish in a Sustainable Manner) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

Larry Murray, Associate Deputy Minister;

Howard Powles, Acting Director, Fisheries Research Branch;

Jacques Robichaud, Director General, Resource Management Directorate.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

John O'Brien, Principal, Audit Operations.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 63

Thursday, May 13, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 269, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, Elsie Wayne, John Williams.

Acting Members present: Yvan Bernier for Serge Cardin; Gary Lunn for Philip Mayfield

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; John O'Brien, Principal, Audit Operations. *From the Fisheries and Oceans:* Larry Murray, Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Fisheries of Oceans Canada; Jacques Robichaud, Director General, Resource Management Directorate; Howard Powles, Acting Director, Fisheries Research Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 4 (Fisheries and Oceans - Managing Atlantic Shellfish in a Sustainable Manner) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels and Larry Murray made an opening statement and with the witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:25 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 64

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 64

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:30 p.m. this day, in Room 371, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney, John Williams.

Acting Member present: Odina Desrochers for Serge Cardin.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider a draft Report on Chapter 2 (Revenue Canada - Underground Economy Initiative) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

At 4:30 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Standing Committee
on

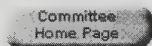
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 65

Thursday, May 27, 1999

IN CAMERA



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 65

Thursday, May 27, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:35 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Eugène Bellemare, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Beth Phinney, Elsie Wayne, John Williams.

Acting Members present: Denis Paradis for Jerry Pickard, Yvan Bernier for Gilles-A. Perron.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider a draft Report on Chapter 4 (Fisheries and Oceans - Managing Atlantic Shellfish in a Sustainable Manner) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Elsie Wayne moved, - That this Committee request the Auditor General of Canada to conduct a comprehensive audit of loans and grants accorded to Les Entreprises Yvon Duhaime Inc. and 9047-4412 Quebec Inc. by various Government of Canada departments and agencies.

After debate, the question being put on the motion, it was, by a show of hands, negatived: YEAS: 3
NAYS: 6.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report on Chapter 2 (Revenue Canada), as amended, be adopted as the twenty-ninth Report of the Committee and that the Chair present it to the House.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report on Chapter 4 (Fisheries and Oceans --Managing Atlantic shellfish in a Sustainable Manner), as amended, be adopted as the Thirtieth Report of the Committee and that the Chair present it to the House.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Reports as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Reports.

It was agreed, - That the Chair of the Committee be authorized to seek the authority and the necessary funds to permit up to five (5) members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and three (3) staff persons of the Committee to travel to Quebec, to attend the Twentieth Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees from August 29 to 31, 1999; and that the members attending the Conference utilize their air travel points to travel to the Conference.

At 5:10 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 66

Tuesday, June 1st, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 6 (Human Resources Development Canada – Accountability for Shared Social Programs: National Child Benefit and Employability Assistance for People with Disabilities) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Human Resources Development Canada:

Margaret Biggs, Associate Executive Head, Strategic Policy;

Claire M. Morris, Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 66

Tuesday, June 1st, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:30 p.m. this day, in Room 705, La Promenade Building, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, John Williams.

Acting Member present: Christiane Gagnon for Serge Cardin.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch; Lewis Auerbach, Director, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Human Resources Development Canada:* Claire M. Morris, Deputy Minister; Susan Scotti, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Human Resources Investment Branch; Margaret Biggs, Associate Executive Head, Strategic Policy.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 6 (Human Resources Development Canada - Accountability for Shared Social Programs: National Child Benefit and Employability Assistance for People with Disabilities) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

David Rattray and Claire M. Morris made an opening statement and with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

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Chairman: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 67

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 10 (Indian and Northern Affairs—Funding Arrangement for First Nations: Follow-up) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada:

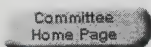
Brent DiBartolo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services;

Dennis Wallace, Associate Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General;

Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 67

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Lynn Myers, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, Elsie Wayne, John Williams.

Acting Member present: Derrek Konrad for Paul Forseth.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; Ted Bonder, Director, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development:* Dennis Wallace, Associate Deputy Minister; Brent DiBartolo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 10 (Indian and Northern Affairs - Funding Arrangements for First Nations: Follow-up) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels and Dennis Wallace made opening statements and with the witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:25 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 1

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Election of a Chair



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 1

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met at 3:30 p.m. this day, in Room 269, West Block, the Clerk, presiding over the election of a Chair.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Paul Forseth, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, George Proud, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau.

Acting Members present: Karen Redman for John Finlay and Chuck Strahl for John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis, Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 106(1) and (2) election of a Chair and Vice-chairs.

The Clerk of the Committee presided over the election of a Chair.

Moved by Philip Mayfield, seconded by Mac Harb, - That John Williams do take the Chair of this Committee as Chair. The question being put on the motion, it was agreed to. Accordingly, John Williams was declared duly elected Chair of the Committee *in absentia*.

The Clerk presided over the election of an acting Chair.

It was agreed, - That Mac Harb take the Chair as Acting Chair for this meeting.

On motion of George Proud, it was agreed, - That John Richardson be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

On motion of Beth Phinney, it was agreed, - That Steve Mahoney be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

On motion of George Proud, - It was agreed, - That That the Chair, the two Vice-Chairs, an additional Liberal member and a representative of each of the Bloc Québécois, the New Democratic Party and the Progressive Conservative Party do compose the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure.

On motion of Chuck Strahl, it was agreed, - That the Committee retain the services of one or more Research Officers from the Library of Parliament, as needed, to assist the Committee in its work, at the discretion of the Chair.

On motion of Benoît Sauvageau, it was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence when a quorum is not present provided that at least five (5) members are present including three (3) government members and two (2) members of the opposition.

On motion of Karen Redman, it was agreed, - That the witnesses be given five (5) minutes to summarize their opening statements which will be appended to that day's evidence and, that during

the questioning of the witnesses, there be allocated eight (8) minutes for the first questioner of each party and that thereafter four (4) minutes be allocated to each subsequent questioner, at the discretion of the Chair.

On motion of Marlene Jennings, it was agreed, - That , as established by the Board of Internal Economy and if requested, reasonable travelling, accommodation, and living expenses be reimbursed to witnesses who are invited to appear before the Committee up to a maximum of 2 representatives for any organization.

On motion of Steve Mahoney, it was agreed, - That the Committee authorize the Chair, from time to time, as the need arises, to take, in conjunction with the Clerk of the Committee the appropriate measures to provide lunches for the Committee and its Sub-committees, for working purposes, and that the cost of these lunches be charged to the budget of the Committee.

Beth Phinney moved, - That 48 hours notice be given before any substantial motion is to be presented to the Committee.

After debate, the question being put on the motion and the result of the vote having been announced YEAS: 4; NAYS: 4, w hereupon the Chair voted in the affirmative.

Accordingly, the motion was agreed to.

On motion of Benoît Sauvageau, it was agreed, - that documents to be distributed to Committee members be in both official languages.

At 4:10 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 2

Thursday, November 4, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 2

Thursday, November 4, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met *in camera* at 4:00 p.m. this day, in Room 371, West Block, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau.

Acting Members present: Eric Lowther for Paul Forseth, Derek Konrad for John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 6 (Human Resources Development Canada - Accountability for Shared Social Programs) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of a draft report on Chapter 10 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Funding Arrangements for First Nations: Follow-up) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The Vice-Chair presented the First Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which reads as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Tuesday, November 2, 1999, and agreed to recommend the following:

It was agreed, - That the Committee hold meetings in relation to the following topics during the month of November:

- Chapter 6 and Chapter 10 of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada,
- Public Accounts of Canada, 1998-1999,
- Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, for the period ending March 31, 1999,
- Report of the Auditor General of Canada, April 1999, Other Audit Observations, pp. 23 – 26 (National Defence and Health Canada: Non-compliance with conditions and inadequate monitoring with respect to pre – licencing of an anti-malarial drug [mefloquine]),
- Chapter 1 (Correctional Services Canada - (Reintegration of Offenders) from the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

On motion of Mac Harb, it was agreed, - That the First Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report on Chapter 6 (Human Resources Development Canada - Accountability for Shared Social Programs) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada, as amended, be adopted as the First Report of the Committee and that the Chair present it to the House.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report on Chapter 10 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Funding Arrangements for First Nations: Follow-up) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada, as amended, be adopted as the Second Report of the Committee and that the Chair present it to the House.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Reports as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

At 4:30 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 3

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the Public Accounts of Canada 1998-1999

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General.

Treasury Board Secretariat:

Richard Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General;

J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General, Comptrollership Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 3

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 269, West Block, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney,, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Alex Shepherd.

Acting Members present: Ken Epp for Philip Mayfield and Paul Crête for Gilles-A. Perron.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General; John Hodgins, Principal, Audit Operations.
From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat: J. Colin Potts, Deputy Comptroller General, Comptrollership Branch; Richard Neville, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Comptroller General, Financial Management Policy Sector and Expenditure Analysis and Operations Sector; John Morgan, Director, Government Accounting Policy, Comptrollership Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of the *Public Accounts of Canada 1998-1999*.

Mr. Desautels and Mr. Potts made opening statements and with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:20 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 4

Thursday, November 18, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Other Audit Operations of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of National Defence:

Claude Auger, Brigadier-General, Surgeon General and Commander, Canadian Forces
Medical Group.

Health Canada:

Dann M. Michols, Director General, Therapeutic Products Directorate, Health Protection
Branch.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 4

Thursday, November 18, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Marlene Jennings, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, George Proud, John Richardson.

Acting Members present: Paul Forseth for John Cummings and René Laurin for Benoît Sauvageau.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis, Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; Ronnie Campbell, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Health Canada:* Dann Michols, Director General, Therapeutic Products Programme, Health Protection Branch; Ian MacKay, Manager, Special Access Programme, Bureau of Pharmaceutical Assessment. *From the Department of National Defence:* BGen Claude Auger, Surgeon General and Commander, Canadian Forces Medical Group; LCol Greg Cook, Head, Public Health, Directorate of Medical Policy.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of Other Audit Operations of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

The witnesses made opening statements and answered questions.

At 5:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 5

Tuesday, November 23, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of the Annual Performance Report of the office of the Auditor General of Canada for the period ending March 31, 1999

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 5

Tuesday, November 23, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met at 3:34 p.m. this day, in Room 536, Wellington Building, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, George Proud, , Benoît Sauvageau, Alex Shepherd, Elsie Wayne.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e, consideration the Annual Performance Report of the office of the Auditor General of Canada for the period ending March 31, 1999.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and with Michael McLaughlin, answered questions.

At 5:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 6

Thursday, November 25, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 1 (Correctional Service Canada – Reintegration of Offenders) of the April 1999
Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Correctional Service of Canada:

Ole Ingstrup, Commissioner.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

Ron Wolchuk, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 6

Thursday, November 25, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Acting Chair, Mac Harb, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Philip Mayfield, Gilles-A. Perron, Alex Shepherd.

Acting Members present: Peter MacKay for Elsie Wayne and Myron Thompson for John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; Ron Wolchuk, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Correctional Service of Canada:* Ole Ingstrup, Commissioner.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e), consideration of Chapter 1 (Correctional Service Canada - Reintegration of Offenders) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

By unanimous consent, Mac Harb was elected Acting Chair.

Maria Barrados and Ole Ingstrup made opening statements and answered questions.

At 5:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 7

Tuesday, November 30, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 7

Tuesday, November 30, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met *in camera* at 11:05 a.m. this day, in Room 237-C, Centre Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, Alex Shepherd, John Williams.

Other Member present: Paul Steckle

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e, consideration of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and with the witnesses, answered questions.

At 12:03 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 8

Thursday, December 2, 1999

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 8

Thursday, December 2, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 371, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Philip Mayfield, Steve Mahoney, Gilles-A Perron, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General, Audit Operations Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e), consideration of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and with the witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:00 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerkof the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 9

Tuesday, December 7, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 9

Tuesday, December 7, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 701, La Promenade Building, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Alex Shepherd, John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of a draft Report on Other Audit Operations of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - that the Draft Report on Other Audit Operations (National Defence and Health Canada), as amended, be adopted as the Third Report of the Committee and that the Chair be instructed to present it to the House 48 hours after each member has received a final revised copy.

It was agreed, - That the Chair and Researchers be authorized to make such typographical and editorial changes as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was agreed, - That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts establish a Sub-Committee to promote the acceptance of international financial reporting guidelines and standards for the public sector;

- That the mandate of the Sub-Committee include a review of the current efforts by parliamentarians and international organizations, such as the World Bank, to promote the acceptance of guidelines and standards now being developed under the auspices of the International Federation of Accountants;

- That the Sub-Committee be chaired by John Williams and that it be composed of eight (8) members including four (4) members from the Government and four (4) members from the Opposition to be appointed by the Chair after the usual consultations;

- That the Chair of the Sub-Committee be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence in the absence of a quorum, provided that four (4) members are present;

- That the Sub-Committee be delegated all of the powers of the Standing Committee, except the power to report to the House;

- That the Sub-Committee be authorized to reimburse the travelling expenses of the witnesses which will be charged to the budget of the Standing Committee;

- That the Sub-Committee be authorized to seek the authority and the necessary funds to travel, if deemed appropriate; and

- That the Sub-Committee report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee no

later than May 31, 2000.

The Chair presented the Second Report of the Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure which reads as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Thursday, December 2, 1999, and agreed to recommend the following:

It was agreed, That the Committee hold meetings in relation to the following chapters of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada:

Chapter 21 (Financial Information Strategy: Departmental Readiness);

Chapter 17 (Canada Infrastructure Works Program: Phase II and Follow-up of Phase I Audit);

Chapter 23 (Involving Others in Governing: Accountability at Risk);

Chapter 24 (The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund: An Example of Involving Others in Governing);

Chapter 14 (National Health Surveillance: Diseases and Injuries);

Chapter 15 (Management of a Food-Borne Disease Outbreak);

Chapter 18 (Public Works and Government Services Canada - Alternative Forms of Delivery: Contracting for Property Management Services;

Chapter 27 (National Defence - Alternative Service Delivery);

Chapter 30 (Sole- Source Contracting for Professional Services: Using Advance Contract Award Notices);

Follow-up of recommendations in Previous Reports (to be determined).

It was agreed, - That the Second Report of the Sub- Committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in.

At 5:30 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 10

Tuesday, December 14, 1999

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 10

Tuesday, December 14, 1999

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Paul Forseth, Steve Mahoney, George Proud, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, John Williams.

Acting Members present: Guy St-Julien for Alex Shepherd and Derrek Konrad for Philip Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), consideration of the Public Accounts of Canada 1998-1999.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e), consideration the Annual Performance Report of the office of the Auditor General of Canada for the period ending March 31, 1999.

By unanimous consent, the Committee waived the 48 hour notice to present a new motion.

On motion of Paul Forseth, it was agreed, - That the Committee do now adjourn.

At 3:45 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 11

Thursday, February 10, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 21 of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Eric Anttila, Principal, Audit Operations;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.

Treasury Board Secretariat:

Jim Libbey, Senior Director, Financial Information Strategy Project;

John Morgan, Senior Director, Financial Management and Accounting Policy;

Richard Neville, Deputy Comptroller General, Financial Management Policy Sector and
Expenditure Analysis and Operations Sector.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 11

Thursday, February 10, 2000

The Standing Committee of Public Accounts met at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Alex Shepherd, John Williams.

Acting Members present: Derrek Konrad for Paul Forseth.

Other Member present: Judy Sgro.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis; Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General; Eric Anttila, Principal, Audit Operations. *From the Treasury Board Secretariat:* Richard Neville, Deputy Comptroller General, Financial Management Policy Sector & Expenditure Analysis and Operations Sector; Jim Libbey, Senior Director, Financial Information Strategy Project; John Morgan, Senior Director, Financial Management and Accounting Policy.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)e), consideration of Chapter 21 (Financial Information Strategy - Departmental Readiness) of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels and Richard Neville each made an opening statement and with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Jacques Lahaie

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 12

Thursday, February 17, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 18 (Public Works and Government Services Canada - Alternative Forms of Delivery: Contracting for Property Management Services) and Chapter 27 (National Defence - Alternative Service Delivery) of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of National Defence:

Gary L. Garnett, Vice-Admiral, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff;

Jim Judd, Deputy Minister;

Alan Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister, Materiel.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

Public Works and Government Services Canada:

Michael Nurse, Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Services Branch;

Hank van der Linde, Director General, Property and Facilities Management, Real Property Services Branch.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 12

Thursday, February 17, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:32 p.m. this day, in Room 371, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Philip Mayfield, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Alex Shepherd and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Department of National Defence:* Jim Judd, Deputy Minister; Vadm. Gary L. Garnett, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff; Alan Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister, Material. *From Public Works and Government Services Canada:* Michael Nurse, Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Services Branch; Hank van der Linde, Director General, Property and Facilities Management, Real Property Services Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 18 (Public Works and Government Services Canada - Alternative Forms of Delivery: Contracting for Property Management Services) and Chapter 27 (National Defence - Alternative Service Delivery) of the September and November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement.

The Chair presented the Third Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Wednesday, February 16, 2000, and agreed to recommend the following:

1. That the Committee present a report to the House requesting an order that the Department of National Defence submit to the Committee the report of the Canadian Forces National Investigation Service respecting its investigation on the allegations of fraud regarding alleged gratuities and/or kickbacks from service stations as soon as the report is completed;
2. That the Committee meet with a delegation from Bangladesh on February 29, 2000 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.;
3. That the Committee hold meetings on grants and contributions when the issue is reported on by the Auditor General in the fall of 2000.

It was agreed, - That recommendation No. 1 be amended by deleting the words: "present a report to the House requesting an"; and by adding the word: "to" before the word: "submit".

On motion of John Richardson, the Third Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure, as amended, was concurred in.

Jim Judd and Michael Nurse made opening statements.

The witnesses answered questions

At 5:32 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 13

Tuesday, February 22, 2000

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 13

Tuesday, February 22, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:50 p.m. this day, in Room 701, La Promenade Building, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Marlene Jennings, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Judy Sgro, Alex Shepherd and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 1 (Correctional Service Canada - Reintegration of Offenders) of the April 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on the Public Accounts of Canada 1998-1999.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 5:20 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 14

Thursday, February 24, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 17 (Canada Infrastructure Works Program: Phase II and Follow-Up of Phase I Audit), Chapter 23 (Involving Others in Governing: Accountability at Risk) and Chapter 24 (The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund: An Example of Involving Others in Governing) of the November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.

Secretariat of the Treasury Board of Canada:

Richard B. Fadden, Assistant Secretary, Government Operations Sector;

Ralph Heintzman, Assistant Secretary, Service and Innovation.





MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 14

Thursday, February 24, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:49 p.m. this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Ken Epp for Paul Forseth.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General. *From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat:* Richard B. Fadden, Assistant Secretary, Government Operations Sector; Ralph Heintzman, Assistant Secretary, Service and Innovation.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 17 (Canada Infrastructure Works Program: Phase II and Follow-Up of Phase I Audit), Chapter 23 (Involving Others in Governing: Accountability at Risk) and Chapter 24 (The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund: An Example of Involving Others in Governing) of the November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels, Richard Fadden and Ralph Heintzman made opening statements and answered questions.

At 4:41 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 5:29 p.m., the sitting resumed.

At 5:30 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 15

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 15

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:41 p.m. this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Judy Sgro and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Committee business.

It was agreed, - That, further to the letter dated February 18, 2000, received from the Auditor General, the Chair of the Committee write to the Deputy Ministers of the five Departments mentioned in the document attached to the letter to request an explanation for the lack of satisfactory progress on the Auditor General's reports noted in the document.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting the Performance Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada for the period ending March 31, 1999.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 4:22 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 16

Thursday, March 2, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of Chapter 14 (National Health Surveillance: Diseases and Injuries) and Chapter 15 (Management of a Food-Borne Disease Outbreak) of the September 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

Robert Carberry, Director, Plant Health and Production Division;

Ron Doering, President;

Brian Evans, Doctor, Executive Director, Animal Products Directorate.

Health Canada:

Robert S. Lafleur, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services Branch;

Joe Losos, Doctor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Protection Branch;

Michael Shannon, Doctor, Director General, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health Protection Branch.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

Ronnie Campbell, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 16

Thursday, March 2, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:36 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Judy Sgro and John Williams.

Other Member present: Judy Wasylycia-Leis.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; Ronnie Campbell, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From Health Canada:* Robert S. Lafleur, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services Branch; Dr. Joe Losos, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Protection Branch; Dr. Michael Shannon, Director General, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control. *From the Canadian Food Inspection Agency:* Ron Doering, President; Dr. Brian Evans, Executive Director, Animal Products Directorate; Robert Carberry, Director, Plant Health and Production Division.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 14 (National Health Surveillance: Diseases and Injuries) and Chapter 15 (Management of a Food-Borne Disease Outbreak) of the September 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels, Robert Lafleur and Ron Doering made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

Pursuant to an order adopted on Wednesday, October 27, 1999, the Chair authorized that the document entitled Laboratory Centre for Disease Control-Surveillance Networks presented to the Committee by the Health Protection Branch be filed as an exhibit with the Clerk of the Committee. (*Exhibit "PACC-A"*)

At 5:14 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 17

Thursday, March 16, 2000

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 17

Thursday, March 16, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 4:07 p.m. this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Judy Sgro and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Jean Augustine for Alex Shepherd.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 21 (Financial Information Strategy - Departmental Readiness) of the November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented to the House of Commons as the Seventh Report of the Committee.

At 4:32 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, Ref.

Meeting No. 18

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 17 (Canada Infrastructure Works Program: Phase II and Follow-Up of Phase I Audit), Chapter 23 (Involving Others in Governing: Accountability at Risk) and Chapter 24 (The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund: An example of Involving Others in Governing) of the September and November 1999 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General.

Secretariat of the Treasury Board of Canada:

Toby Fyfe, Director, Alternative Service Delivery, Service and Innovation;

E.L. Shipley, Program Director, Infrastructure Works Canada.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 18

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 269, West Block, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau and Judy Sgro.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; Henno Moenting, Principal, Audit Operations; John Mayne, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat:* Eric L. Shipley, Director General, Information Management and Program Operations, Infrastructure - National Office; Toby Fyfe, Director, Alternative Service Delivery, Service and Innovation; Tom Fitzpatrick, Senior Policy Officer, Service and Innovation.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of Chapter 17 (Canada Infrastructure Works Program: Phase II and Follow-Up of Phase I Audit), Chapter 23 (Involving Others in Governing: Accountability at Risk) and Chapter 24 (The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund: An Example of Involving Others in Governing) of the September and November 1999 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada.

Maria Barrados made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 4:42 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Meeting No. 19

Thursday, March 30, 2000

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 19

Thursday, March 30, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:39 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Philip Mayfield, John Richardson and Benoît Sauvageau.

Acting Members present: Brenda Chamberlain for Beth Phinney; Jean Augustine for Judy Sgro; and Ian Murray for John Finlay.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 18 (Public Works and Government Services Canada - Alternative Forms of Delivery: Contracting for Property Management Services) and Chapter 27 (National Defence - Alternative Service Delivery) of the September and November 1999 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada

At 5:07 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 20

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 30 (Sole-Source Contracting for Professional Services: Using Advance Contract Award Notices) and Chapter 27 (National Defence - Alternative Service Delivery - NATO Flight Training in Canada) of the November 1999 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of National Defence:

Rick Burton, Director General, Materiel Comptrollership and Business Management.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch;

Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

Treasury Board of Canada, Secretariat:

Jane Cochran, Senior Director, Procurement Policy;

Richard J. Neville, Deputy Comptroller General;

Roberta Santi, Assistant Secretary, Risk, Procurement and Asset Management.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 20

Tuesday, April 4, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Alex Shepherd, and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Gordon Earle for Michelle Dockrill.

Associate Member present: Derrek Konrad.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Peter Kasurak, Principal, Audit Operations Branch; Hugh McRoberts, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Department of National Defence:* Rick Burton, Director General, Materiel Comptrollership and Business Management. *From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat:* Richard J. Neville, Deputy Comptroller General; Roberta Santi, Assistant Secretary, Risk, Procurement and Asset Management; Jane Cochran, Senior Director, Procurement Policy.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 30 (Sole-Source Contracting for Professional Services: Using Advance Contract Award Notices) and Chapter 27 (National Defence - Alternative Service Delivery - NATO Flight Training in Canada) of the November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels, Rick Burton and Richard Neville made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:30 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 21

Thursday, April 13, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Consideration of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, April 11, 2000

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Richard Flageole, Deputy Auditor General;

Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General;

Grant Wilson, principal, Audit Operations.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 21

Thursday, April 13, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Marlene Jennings, Philip Mayfield, Benoît Sauvageau, and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Derek Lee for Beth Phinney.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General; Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, April 11, 2000.

Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 4:48 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 22

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Main Estimates 2000-01: Votes 20 and 25 under FINANCE

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General, Audit Operations;

Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 22

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:37 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Judy Sgro, Alex Shepherd and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General, Audit Operations; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Main Estimates 2000-01: Votes 20 and 25 under FINANCE (Office of the Auditor General) referred to the Committee on Tuesday, February 29, 2000.

The witnesses made opening statements and answered questions.

Votes 20 and 25 under FINANCE carried.

It was ordered, - That the Chair report Votes 20 and 25 under FINANCE to the House.

At 4:54 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 23

Thursday, May 4, 2000

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 23

Thursday, May 4, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:55 p.m. this day, in Room 269, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Judy Sgro and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Andy Scott for Mac Harb.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee resumed consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 18 (Public Works and Government Services Canada - Alternative Forms of Delivery: Contracting for Property Management Services) and Chapter 27 (National Defence - Alternative Service Delivery) of the September and November 1999 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

The Chair presented the Fourth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure which read as follows:

The Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on Tuesday, May 2, 2000, and agreed to recommend the following:

1. That the Committee hold meetings on the following chapters of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General:
 - Chapter 3 (Citizenship and Immigration Canada - The Economic Component of the Canadian Immigration Program);
 - Chapter 4 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Elementary and Secondary Education);
 - Chapter 6 (Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Department of Finance - Handling Tax Credit Claims for Scientific Research and Experimental Development);
 - Chapter 7 (Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Services for Canada's Law Enforcement

Community).

1. That the Committee hold a very brief 15 minute meeting with Frank A. Claydon, the recently appointed Secretary of the Treasury Board, to review his appointment pursuant to Standing Order 111.
2. That the Chair of the Committee be authorized to take, in conjunction with the Clerk of the Committee, the appropriate measures to provide for working dinners for the Committee and its Sub-Committees to be charged to the budget of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Fourth Report of the Sub-Committee on Agenda and Procedure be concurred in.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 14 (National Health Surveillance: Diseases and Injuries) and Chapter 15 (Management of a Food-Borne Disease Outbreak) of the September 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 4:26 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 24

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 3 (Citizenship and Immigration Canada — The Economic Component of the Canadian Immigration Program) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada:

Joan Atkinson, Acting Deputy Minister, Policy and Program Development;

Janice Cochrane, Deputy Minister;

Georges Tsai, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Richard Flageole, Deputy Auditor General;

Serge Gaudet, Principal, Audit Operations Branch.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 24

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:40 p.m. this day, in Room 705, La Promenade Building, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Leon Benoit for Philip Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Richard Flageole, Assistant Auditor General; Serge Gaudet, Principal, Audit Operations Branch. *From the Citizenship and Immigration Canada:* Janice Cochrane, Deputy Minister; Joan Atkinson, Acting Deputy Minister, Policy and Program Development; Georges Tsai, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 3 (Citizenship and Immigration Canada --The Economic Component of the Canadian Immigration Program) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels and Janice Cochrane made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 4:11 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 4:47 p.m., the sitting resumed.

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:23 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Standing Committee
on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 25

Thursday, May 18, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 4 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada--Elementary and Secondary Education)
of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada:

Bob Coulter, Director, Learning, Employment and Human Development;

Shirley Serafini, Deputy Minister;

Dennis Wallace, Associate Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General, Audit Operations;

Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 25

Thursday, May 18, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:37 p.m. this day, in Room 371, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Judy Sgro and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Derrek Konrad for Philip Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Sheila Fraser, Deputy Auditor General, Audit Operations; Grant Wilson, Principal, Audit Operations. *From the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:* Shirley Serafini, Deputy Minister; Dennis Wallace, Associate Deputy Minister; Bob Coulter, Director, Learning, Employment and Human Development.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 4 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada -- Elementary and Secondary Education) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Sheila Fraser and Shirley Serafini made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:19 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 26

Tuesday, May 30, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 7 (Royal Canadian Mounted Police — Services for Canada's Law Enforcement Community) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

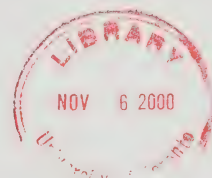
Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

Curt Allen, Deputy Commissioner, National Police Services and Technical Infrastructure;

Robert Goulet, Assistant Commissioner, Information and Identification Services;

Brian Richardson, Assistant Commissioner, Forensic Laboratory Services.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 26

Tuesday, May 30, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:40 p.m. this day, in Room 269, West Block, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Beth Phinney and John Richardson.

Acting Members present: Jim Abbott for Philip Mayfield; Pierrette Venne for Benoît Sauvageau.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Lyne Casavant, Research Officer.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General. *From the RCMP:* Curt Allen, Deputy Commissioner, National Police Services and Technical Infrastructure; Dr. Brian Richardson, Assistant Commissioner, Forensic Laboratory Services; Robert Goulet, Assistant Commissioner, Information and Identification Services.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 7 (Royal Canadian Mounted Police -- Services for Canada's Law Enforcement Community) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Maria Barrados and Curt Allen made opening statements and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:06 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 27

Thursday, June 1st, 2000

IN CAMERA



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 27

Thursday, June 1st, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:46 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Vice-Chair, John Richardson, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau and Judy Sgro.

Acting Members present: Pierre Brien for Gilles A. Perron; Ken Epp for Philip Mayfield.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters relating to Committee business.

It was agreed, - That the Chair of the Committee be authorized to seek the authority and the necessary funds to permit up to five (5) members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and three (3) staff persons of the Committee to travel to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to attend the Twenty - First Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees from September 17 to 19, 2000, and that the members attending the Conference utilize their air travel points to travel to the Conference.

It was agreed, - That the travel budget in the amount of \$13,200.00 to attend the Conference in Halifax be adopted.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report on Chapter 23 (Involving Others in Governing: Accountability at Risk) and Chapter 24 (The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund: An Example of Involving Others in Governing) of the November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

The attention of the Chair was drawn to the lack of a quorum and, fewer than 9 members having been counted, the names of the Members present were taken down as follows:

Members present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, John Richardson and Judy Sgro.

Acting Member present: Ken Epp for Philip Mayfield.

At 3:54 p.m., the Chair declared the Committee adjourned for want of quorum.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 28

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 28

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:51 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Judy Sgro and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Serge Cardin for Benoît Sauvageau.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Brian O'Neal, Research Officer.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 17 (Canada Infrastructure Works Program: Phase II and Follow-Up of Phase I Audit) of the September 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed, - That the Draft Report on Chapter 17 be concurred in, on division;

That the Draft Report on Chapter 30 (Sole-Source Contracting for Professional Services: Using Advance Contract Award Notices) of the November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada be concurred in;

That the Draft Report on Chapter 23 (Involving Others in Governing: Accountability at Risk) and Chapter 24 (The Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund: An Example of Involving Others in Governing) of the November 1999 Report of the Auditor General of Canada be concurred in; and

That the Draft Report on Chapter 4 (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Elementary and Secondary Education) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada be concurred in.

By unanimous consent, it was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Reports as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

By unanimous consent, it was ordered, - That the Reports be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 3:54 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 29

Thursday, June 8, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of Chapter 6 (Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Department of Finance--Handling Tax Credit Claims for Scientific Research and Experimental Development) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency:

William V. Baker, Assistant Commissioner, Verification, Enforcement and Compliance
Research Branch;

Norine Heselton, Director General, Scientific Research and Experimental Development
Directorate, Verification, Enforcement and Compliance Research Branch;

Rob Wright, Commissioner.

Department of Finance Canada:

Paul Berg-Dick, Director, Business Income Tax Division, Tax Policy Branch;

Len L. Farber, Director General, Legislation, Tax Policy Branch.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 29

Thursday, June 8, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:40 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Philip Mayfield, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau and John Williams.

Other Member present: Paul Szabo.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Shahid Minto, Assistant Auditor General. *From the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency:* Rob Wright, Commissioner; William V. Baker, Assistant Commissioner, Verification, Enforcement and Compliance Research Branch; Norine Heselton, Director General, Scientific Research and Experimental Development Directorate, Verification, Enforcement and Compliance Research Branch. *From the Department of Finance:* Len L. Farber, Director General, Legislation, Tax Policy Branch; Paul Berg-Dick, Director, Business Income Tax Division, Tax Policy Branch.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 6 (Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Department of Finance -- Handling Tax Credit Claims for Scientific Research and Experimental Development) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

L. Denis Desautels, Rob Wright and Len L. Farber made opening statements.

In accordance with the motion adopted on Wednesday, October 27, 1999, the Chair authorized the publication of the written statements of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and the Department of Finance as appendices to this day's evidence ([Appendices PACC-1](#) and [PACC-2](#)).

The witnesses answered questions.

At 5:31 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 30

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of the request dated May 18, 2000 from the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat respecting a waiver of publication in the Public Accounts of Canada

WITNESSES:

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat:

Frank Claydon, Secretary of the Treasury Board, Comptroller General of Canada;

Richard Neville, Deputy Comptroller General, Comptrollership Branch.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 30

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 4:09 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: John Finlay, Mac Harb, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, Benoît Sauvageau, Judy Sgro, Alex Shepherd and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Treasury Board of Canada - Secretariat: Richard Neville, Deputy Comptroller General; John Morgan, Director, Financial Management and Accounting Policy, Comptrollership Branch; Frank Claydon, Secretary of the Treasury Board and Comptroller General of Canada.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the request dated May 18, 2000 from the Secretariat of the Treasury Board respecting a waiver of publication in the *Public Accounts of Canada*.

Richard Neville made an opening statement and, with John Morgan, answered questions.

It was agreed, - That the Committee accede to the request for the publication waiver in the *Public Accounts of Canada* for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000 and the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, respecting the *ex gratia* payments of special benefits to merchants navy veterans as requested in the letter dated May 18, 2000 from Richard J. Neville, Deputy Comptroller General, provided that the nature, the number and total amount of payments is published in the *Public Accounts of Canada* and that a detailed list of individual recipients and payments is made available by the Department of Veteran Affairs to any person requesting the information.

At 4:20 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 4:22 p.m., the sitting resumed.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 110 and 111, the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Order in Council appointment of Frank Claydon as Secretary of the Treasury Board and Comptroller General of Canada (Deemed referred to the Committee on April 11, 2000, pursuant to Standing Order 32(6)).

Frank Claydon made an opening statement and, with Richard Neville, answered questions.

At 5:16 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 31

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

IN CAMERA



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 31

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met *in camera* at 3:45 p.m. this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hec Clouthier, Marlene Jennings, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Gilles-A. Perron, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau, Judy Sgro, Alex Shepherd and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Sophia Leung for Beth Phinney.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters related to the future business of the Committee.

It was agreed, - That the Committee schedule meetings as follows:

- Tuesday, September 26, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., to consider matters related to the future business of the Committee and Draft Reports to the House respecting Chapters 3, 6 and 7 of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General;
- Thursday, September 28, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., to resume consideration of the Draft Reports, if required;
- Tuesday, October 3, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., on Chapter 9 (Human Resource Management) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General with the Auditor General; Mel Cappe, Clerk of the Privy Council; Scott Serson, President of the Public Service Commission; and Frank Claydon, Secretary of the Treasury Board;
- Thursday, October 5, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., in relation to Chapter 9 with the Auditor General; representatives of APEX; and Dan Quiggley of the National Joint Council;
- Tuesday, October 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., an *in camera* preview of the October 2000 Report of the Auditor General;
- Wednesday, October 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., a meeting of the Sub-committee on International Financial Reporting Guidelines and Standards to consider a Draft Report; and
- Thursday, October 19, at 3:30 p.m., with the Auditor General on the October 2000 Report of the Auditor General.

It was ordered, - That the deadline of the Sub-Committee on International Financial Reporting Guidelines and Standards for the Public Sector to report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee be extended to November 30, 2000.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 6 (Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Department of Finance -- Handling Tax Credit Claims for Scientific Research and Experimental Development) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

It was ordered, - That the Chair of the Committee send a letter to the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency requesting information on what measures the Agency has taken to promote the Tax Credit for Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program and to encourage the Agency to increase its promotion of the program.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 7 (Royal Canadian Mounted Police -- Services for Canada's Law Enforcement Community) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of a Draft Report respecting Chapter 3 (Citizenship and Immigration Canada - The Economic Component of the Canadian Immigration Program) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

It was agreed, - That the Draft Report, as amended, be concurred in.

It was agreed, - That the Chair be authorized to make such grammatical and editorial changes to the Report as may be necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

It was ordered, - That the Report, as amended, be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the House of Commons.

At 4:58 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 32

Thursday, October 5, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Election of a Chair



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 32

Thursday, October 5, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 11:02 a.m. this day, in Room 536, Wellington Building, for the purpose of electing a Chair, pursuant to Standing Orders 106(1) and (2).

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Loyola Hearn, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Gilles-A. Perron, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Judy Sgro and John Williams.

Acting Member present: Keith Martin for Gary Lunn.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

The Clerk of the Committee presided over the election of a Chair.

On motion of Philip Mayfield, seconded by Steve Mahoney, it was agreed, - That John Williams do take the Chair of this Committee as Chairman.

John Williams took the Chair.

On motion of Mac Harb, seconded by John Richardson, it was agreed, - That Steve Mahoney be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

On motion of Steve Mahoney, seconded by Mac Harb, it was agreed, - That John Richardson be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

At 11:04 a.m., the Committee adjourned until 3:30 p.m., this afternoon.

Bernard G. Fournier

Clerk of the Committee

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
36th PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 33

Thursday, October 5, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

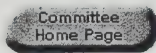
Study of Chapter 9 (Streamlining the Human Resource Management Regime: A Study of Changing Roles and Responsibilities) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada.



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 33

Thursday, October 5, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 3:37 p.m. this day, in Room 209, West Block, the Chair, John Williams, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Loyola Hearn, Marlene Jennings, Dale Johnston, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Gilles-A. Perron, John Richardson, Alex Shepherd and John Williams.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General; John Holmes, Principal, Audit Operations.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e), the Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 9 (Streamlining the Human Resource Management Regime: A Study of Changing Roles and Responsibilities) of the April 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:14 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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Chair: John Williams, CA

Meeting No. 34

Friday, October 20, 2000

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Study of the October 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General;

L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada;

Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services.



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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 34

Friday, October 20, 2000

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts met in a *televised session* at 12:32 p.m. this day, in Room 237-C, Centre Block, the Vice-Chair, Steve Mahoney, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Mac Harb, Loyola Hearn, Marlene Jennings, Dale Johnston, Steve Mahoney, Philip Mayfield, Beth Phinney, John Richardson, Benoît Sauvageau and Alex Shepherd.

Acting Members present: Eugene Bellemare for Judy Sgro; Joe Clark for Loyola Hearn; Stockwell Day for John Williams; John Duncan for Gary Lunn; Wayne Easter for John Finlay; Gordon Earle and Yvon Godin for Michelle Dockrill; Raymonde Folco for Mac Harb; Raymonde Folco for John Richardson; Ivan Grose for Sophia Leung; Francine Lalonde and Suzanne Tremblay for Gilles-A. Perron; Christine Stewart and Ian Murray for Marlene Jennings.

Other Members present: Jean Dubé and Peter MacKay.

In attendance: From the Library of Parliament: Jean Dupuis and Brian O'Neal, Research Officers.

Witnesses: From the Office of the Auditor General of Canada: L. Denis Desautels, Auditor General of Canada; Michael McLaughlin, Deputy Auditor General, Corporate Services; Maria Barrados, Assistant Auditor General.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(e) and the special order of the House dated October 20, 2000, the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the October 2000 Report of the Auditor General of Canada referred to the Committee on Tuesday, October 17, 2000.

L. Denis Desautels made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

The Vice-Chair presented the Final Report of the Sub-Committee on International Financial Reporting Guidelines and Standards for the Public Sector which read as follows:

- That the Chair of the Sub-Committee on International Financial Reporting Guidelines and Standards for the Public Sector report to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts that the Sub-Committee adopted the Draft Report dated October 16, 2000, as amended, and that the Sub-Committee recommends that the Report, as amended, be considered by the Standing Committee at a subsequent meeting during this Parliament or at the beginning of the next Parliament.

At 2:22 p.m., the Committee adjourned.

Bernard G. Fournier
Clerk of the Committee

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